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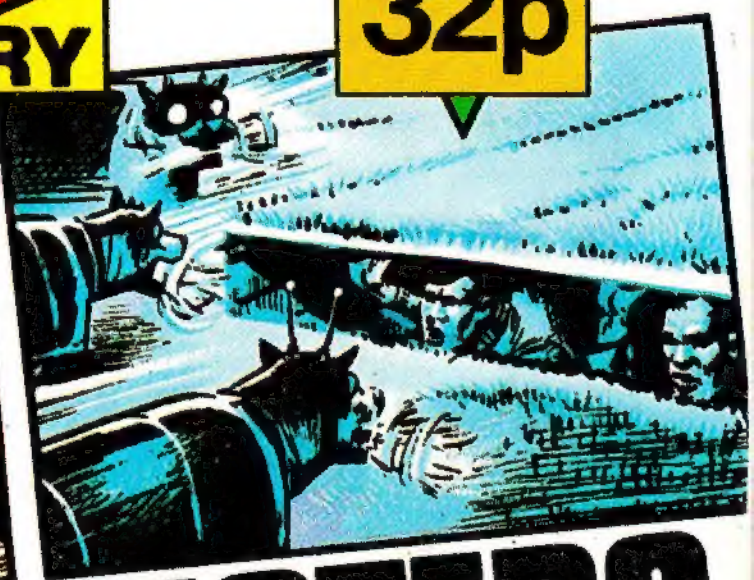

The METAL MONSTERS

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO ENJOY IN THE NEW-LOOK...
ITS NINE POWERFUL STORIES MAKE IT THE BEST COMIC READ FOR BOYS OF ALL AGES!
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No. 181 Every Monday 7th September, 1985
9 ALL STORIES!
EAGLE and TIGER
24p
DOOMLORD
AND SON TAKE A TOUR OF THE COSMOS
AND MEET THE CHARIOT WARRIORS

THE METAL ·M·O·N·S·T·E·R·S·

SIMON LASH AND HIS EX-CONVICT ASSISTANT, KNOCKER WHITE, WERE PAID INVESTIGATORS OF THE UNCANNY. TIMES HAD BEEN BAD AND THEY WERE DESPERATELY GLAD OF A MAGAZINE COMMISSION WHICH TOOK THEM TO THE GROUNDS OF GELFORD ABBEY. YET IT WAS A LONE POACHER WHO WOULD FIRST SEE THE TERROR WHICH STALKED FROM THE ABBEY . . .
AAAAAAAAAH!... NO! NO! IT...IT CAN'T HAPPEN...

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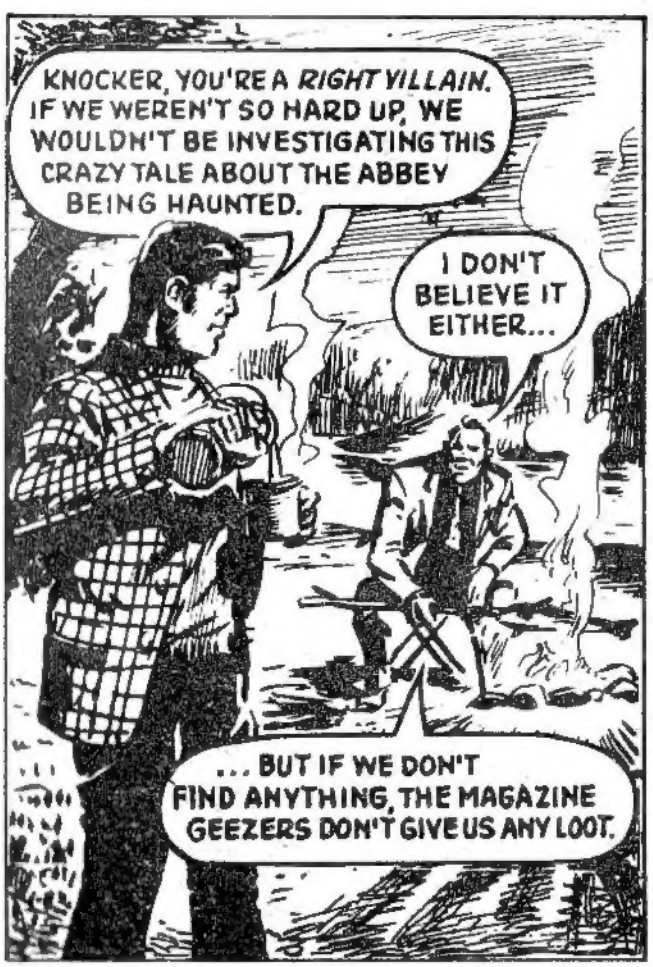
EAGLE P.L. 14

PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED

IN THOSE SAME VAST GROUNDS, LASH AND KNOCKER HAD PITCHED CAMP . . .
SALMON FOR SUPPER, CHIEF! I DIDN'T RECKON LORD GELLAN WOULD MIND US JUST NICKING ONE FROM HIS RIVER.
SINCE YOU DIDN'T ASK HIM, WE'LL NEVER KNOW.

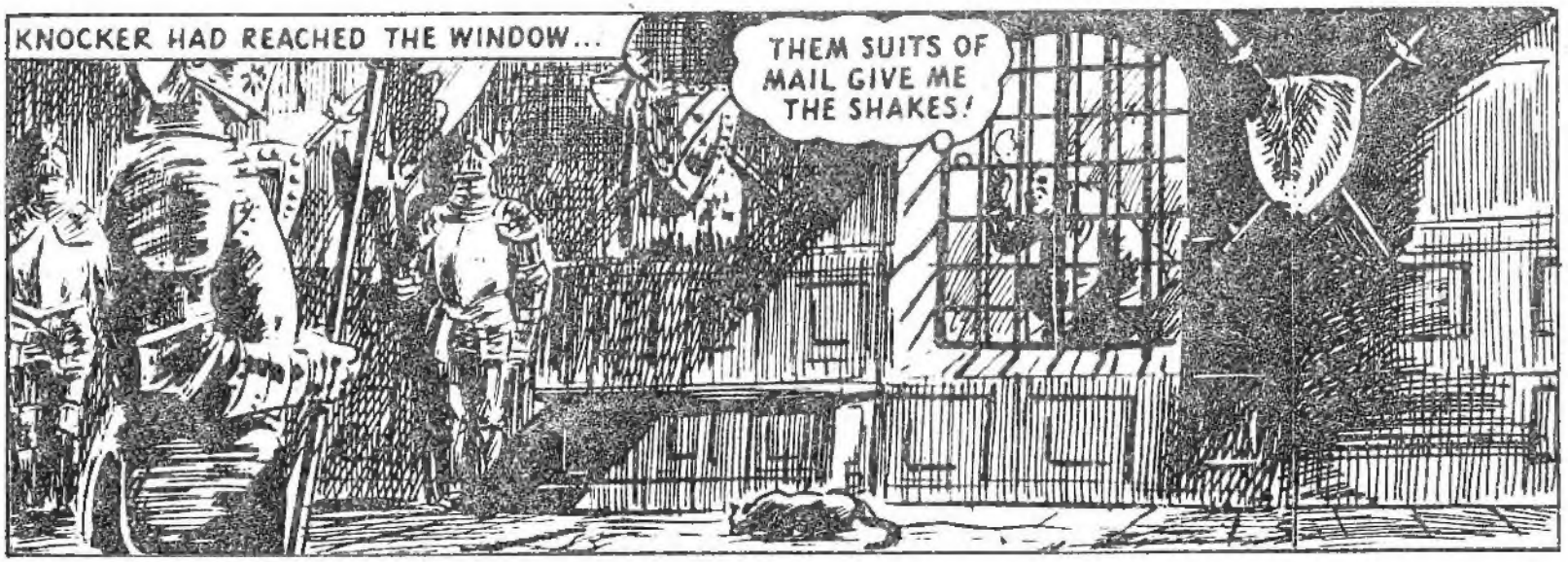

KNOCKER, YOU'RE A RIGHT VILLAIN. IF WE WEREN'T SO HARD UP, WE WOULDN'T BE INVESTIGATING THIS CRAZY TALE ABOUT THE ABBEY BEING HAUNTED.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT EITHER...
... BUT IF WE DON'T FIND ANYTHING, THE MAGAZINE GEEZERS DON'T GIVE US ANY LOOT.

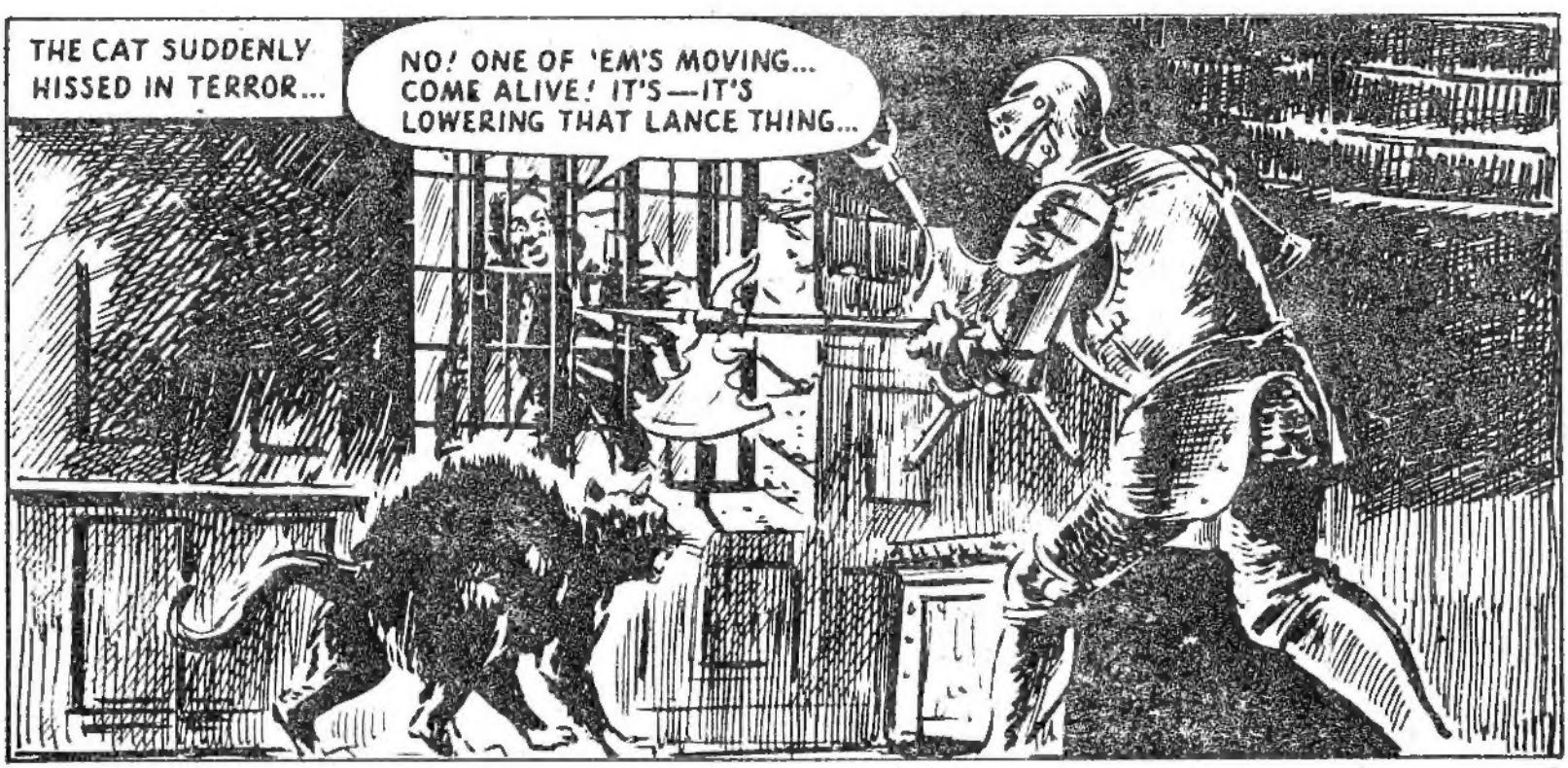
SUDDENLY A CRY OF TERROR RANG OUT . . .
HELP!
OVER THERE ... SOMEBODY RUNNING!
I'M ON MY WAY... I'LL... ER... FOLLOW YOU!

FOR A MOMENT THEY HELD THE FRANTICALLY STRUGGLING MAN . . .
. . . IT BURST THROUGH THE WALL OF THE EAST WING! A THING . . . IN ARMOUR . . . WITH AN AXE!
STEADY! THERE'S NOTHING FOLLOWING YOU NOW.
LET HIM GO! HE'S BEEN BADLY SCARED. WE'LL VISIT THE EAST WING AND CHECK HIS STORY!
OKAY, CHIEF, IF YOU INSIST!
BUT WHEN THEY REACHED THE PLACE WHERE THE ARMOURED FIGURE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BROKEN THROUGH . . .
A SOLID WALL! I SAID THE POACHER WAS OFF HIS NUT!
LOOKS AS IF YOU MAY BE RIGHT!
LOOK . . . THOSE FOOTPRINTS! NO POACHER MADE THOSE. KNOCKER, DO YOU FEEL YOUR SCALP TINGLING?
ER, LET'S GO! WHY NOT MAKE UP A STORY FOR THE MAGAZINE EDITOR.
THOSE ARE ITS FOOTPRINTS . . . BUT THEY STOP DEAD AT THE WALL! AND THE WALL'S SOLID.
GO ON, FRIGHTEN ME! WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?

WE'RE GOING TO BREAK IN...OR RATHER YOU ARE! FORCE THAT WINDOW SO I CAN FOLLOW YOU, KNOCKER.
WHA-AAT? ANYTHING MIGHT BE IN THAT GHASTLY PLACE!
I'M NOT THE WINDY TYPE, CHIEF, BUT DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS? IT'S NOT THE CLIMB...IT'S WHAT WE MIGHT FIND IN THE ABBEY.
FORCE THE WINDOW AND I'LL FOLLOW, KNOCKER. I WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE MAILED FIGURE WENT.

LASH LOOKED BACK TO WHERE THE MAILED FIGURE'S FOOTPRINTS ENDED AT A BRICK WALL...
THE WALL'S SOLID, THERE'S NO SECRET ENTRANCE. SO HOW DID THE THING VANISH?


KNOCKER HAD REACHED THE WINDOW...
THEM SUITS OF MAIL GIVE ME THE SHAKES!


THE CAT SUDDENLY HISSED IN TERROR...
NO! ONE OF 'EM'S MOVING... COME ALIVE! IT'S—IT'S LOWERING THAT LANCE THING...

AS THE HALBERD SEEMED TO EXPLODE THROUGH THE WINDOW...
HURL YOURSELF BACKWARDS! WE'LL USE THE OLD ACROBAT ROUTINE!
AGAIN! OVER!
SIMON MANAGED TO TURN THE FALL INTO A REVERSE SOMERSAULT...
PHEEW, GOOD GOING! YOU OKAY?
YEH... JUST ABOUT, CHIEF!

THEY STARED UP, UNABLE TO BELIEVE THEIR OWN EYES...
THE WINDOW...IT'S UNBROKEN! BUT... BUT WE KNOW IT SMASHED!
THIS PLACE IS HAUNTED! I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE!
THEN SUDDENLY...
WHO'S THERE? DON'T MOVE, OR I'LL SHOOT!
SIR! I'LL LET THE DOGS LOOSE!
A SHOT-GUN ROARED...
LOOK OUT! KEEP GOING... LEAVE THE DOGS TO ME!
EH? YOU'RE FLIPPIN' WELCOME TO 'EM.
THEY'RE FREEING THE DOGS. THEY'LL TEAR US TO PIECES...
RUN! WE'VE SEEN TOO MUCH...

LASH HURLED A SMALL PHIAL...
SEIZE THEM!
THIS'LL STOP THE BRUTES.

THE SMASHED PHIAL RELEASED A SCENT THAT EVEN 'KILLER' DOGS COULD NOT RESIST...
HE'S DEAD CLEVER...I RECKON WE'LL MAKE IT. A MARVELLOUS CROOK OLD LASH COULD HAVE BEEN.

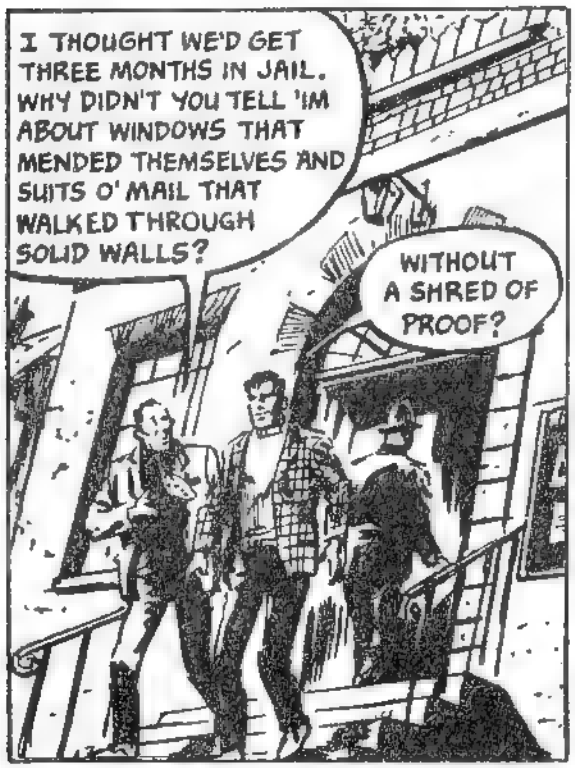
THEY WERE ALMOST IN THE CLEAR...
AT LEAST THE DOGS AND GUN ARE REAL...THEY MAKE SENSE. IT'S THE GHOST STUFF THAT SCARES ME.
BUT HOW DO THE TWO COME TO BE MIXED? TWO MENACES—NATURAL AND SUPERNATURAL!

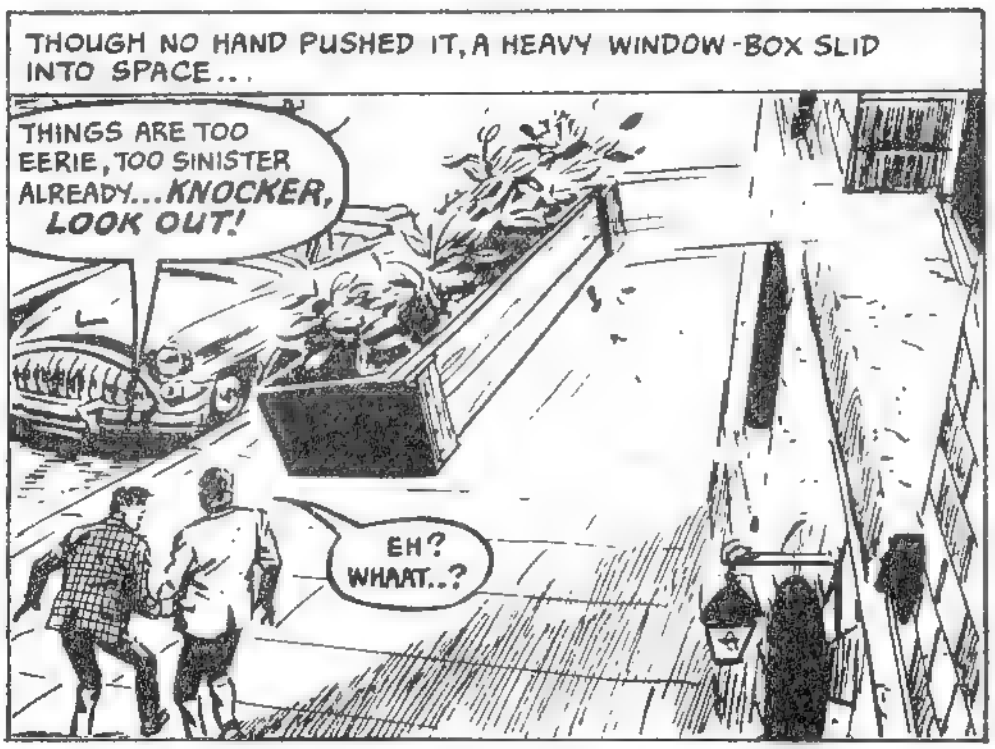
SETS OF HEADLIGHTS SUDDENLY BLAZED...
CARS! CHIEF... WE'RE TRAPPED!
THEY'RE COPS... BOGEYS! WHO CALLED THEM?
AT LEAST THEY'RE NOT MAILED FIGURES, BUT WE COULD STILL BE IN TROUBLE.
POLICE
HOLD IT, YOU TWO!

ARE WE GLAD TO SEE YOU! THERE'S SOMETHING CRAZY GOING ON AT THE ABBEY. PERISHING GREAT ARMOURED FIGURES THAT...
SHUT UP, KNOCKER! WHO'S GOING TO BELIEVE US?

THE PALS WERE LED TO LORD GELLAN, OWNER OF THE ABBEY...
I HEARD GLASS SHATTER. THESE MEN WERE TRYING TO BREAK IN. OFFICER, I CONGRATULATE YOU ON YOUR SPEED OF ACTION.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, SIR. WE TREATED YOUR CALL AS AN EMERGENCY.

NEXT DAY, AT THE POLICE STATION, LASH FINALLY CONVINCED THE INSPECTOR...
IN VIEW OF YOUR IDENTITY... AND LACK OF EVIDENCE... THERE'LL BE NO CHARGE LAID AGAINST YOU. BUT DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN, MR. LASH. WE GROW TIRED OF "GHOST-HUNTERS".
MY APOLOGIES TO LORD GELLAN, INSPECTOR!


I THOUGHT WE'D GET THREE MONTHS IN JAIL. WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL 'IM ABOUT WINDOWS THAT MENDED THEMSELVES AND SUITS O' MAIL THAT WALKED THROUGH SOLID WALLS?
WITHOUT A SHRED OF PROOF?


THOUGH NO HAND PUSHED IT, A HEAVY WINDOW-BOX SLID INTO SPACE...
THINGS ARE TOO EERIE, TOO SINISTER ALREADY... KNOCKER, LOOK OUT!
EH? WHAAT..?

LASH'S REACTIONS WERE LIGHTNING FAST...
SOMEONE NEARLY ENDED MY INVESTIGATION PERMANENTLY. SOMEONE OR SOMETHING!

LATER...
CHIEF, I'VE HAD A BASINFUL O' GHOSTS NOW. THIS IS NO WAY TO MAKE A LIVING. WHY DON'T WE JUST ROB A BANK AND RETIRE?
BECAUSE I GET ANNOYED WHEN "INVISIBLE MEN" TRY TO KILL ME. WHATEVER HAUNTS GELFORD ABBEY HAS GOT TO BE STOPPED!

THE EERIE ABBEY, LORD GELLAN'S STATELY HOME, WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC...
WE PAY OUR MONEY AND LOOK ROUND WITH EVERYONE ELSE. I'M PARTICULARLY KEEN ON THE ARMOUR ROOM.
I'M NOT! THEM TIN SUITS GIVE ME THE CREEPS!
SOUVENIRS
ICES

THE ARMOUR PROVED ONLY TOO GENUINE...
IT'S HOLLOW... NO ROBOT, KNOCKER! YET I'LL SWEAR THIS IS THE MONSTER WE SAW LAST NIGHT.
DON'T MAKE IT COME ALIVE, CHIEF... I'M NOT WINDY— JUST DEAD SCARED.

A VISITOR CAUGHT KNOCKER'S ATTENTION...

THAT BLOKE WITH THE SCAR... HE'S A CROOK. BIG TIME, CHIEF..... DANGEROUS. WHAT BRINGS HIM HERE?
WE'LL FIND OUT BY FOLLOWING HIM. SMART WORK, YOU OLD LAG!

SOMEONE WATCHED. EYES MOVED IN A PORTRAIT...

MILES SPED BY...
PHEW, HE'S REALLY MOTORING... MY SCALP'S PRICKLING AGAIN.
SO'S MINE...I GET THE SAME FEELING OF TROUBLE. IT'S LIKE WHEN WE FIRST SAW THE MAILED FIGURE MOVE.
BEHIND SCAR RALY SOMETHING WRITHED MENACINGLY!
NO! NO!... AAAAGH!
HE'S RUNNING OUT OF ROAD! SOMEONE MUST HAVE BEEN HIDING IN THE BACK OF HIS CAR.

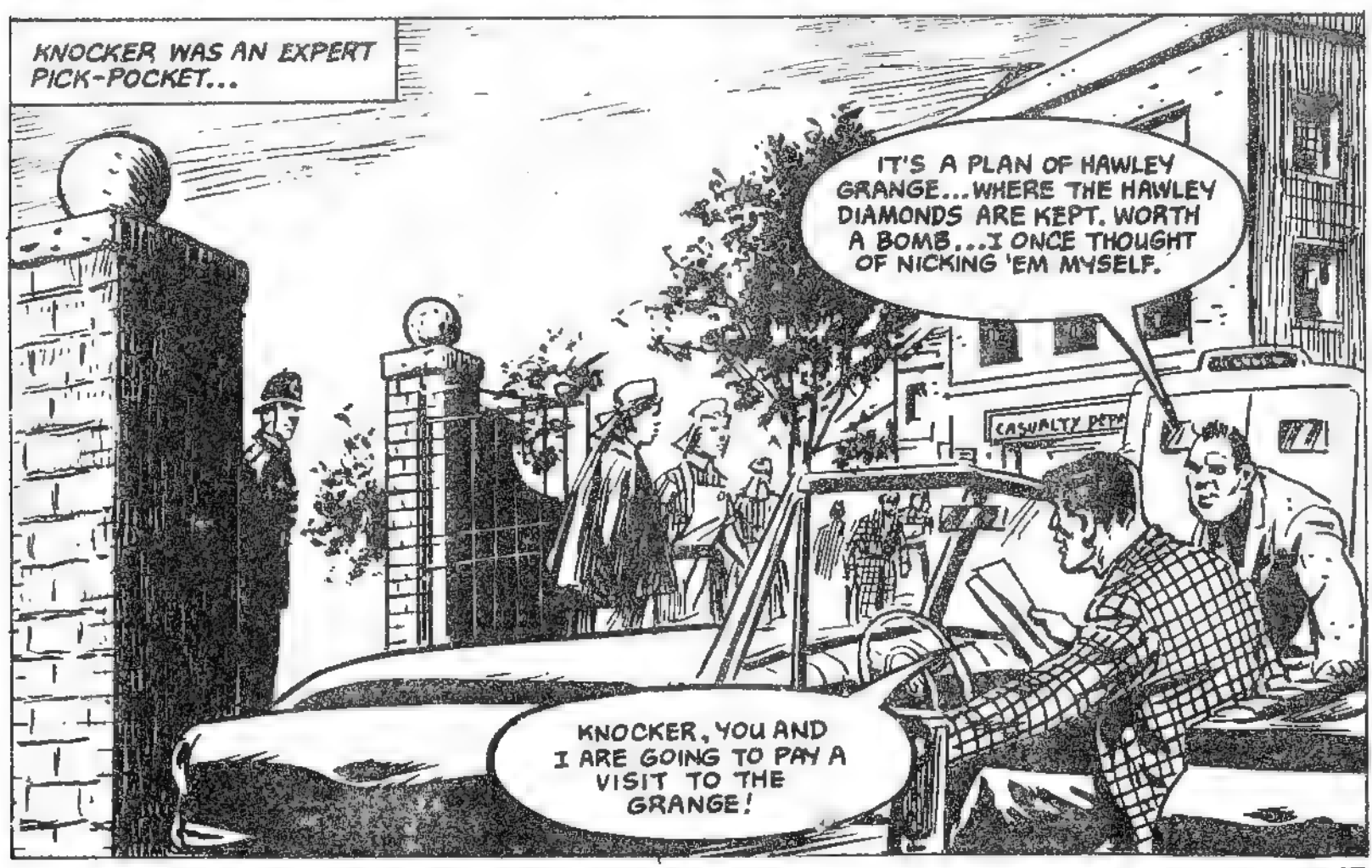
A RICKETY GATE FLEW TO SPLINTERS...
THEY'LL GO OVER THE CLIFF! CHIEF! SO WILL WE!
I'LL RAM HIS CAR... IT'S THE ONLY WAY I'LL STOP HIM IN TIME!
LASH SWUNG THE WHEEL WHILE A SHEER DROP TO DESTRUCTION LOOMED AHEAD...
I DAREN'T LOOK. WE'VE HAD IT!
DANGER
IF I MISTIME...

RALY'S SALOON CAME TO A METAL-RENDING HALT...
COME ON... YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, KNOCKER! DON'T LET RALY'S ATTACKER ESCAPE!
THEY'RE BOTH COLLAPSING! I FEEL LIKE IT TOO.

NEXT MOMENT...
CHIEF, RALY'S UNCONSCIOUS. BUT AT LEAST HE'S ALIVE...
THE... THE ATTACKER! IT... IT'S JUST A CAR BLANKET!

THERE'S A SMALL, NEAT HOLE. IT'S GOT TO MEAN SOMETHING... BUT WHAT? REMEMBER THE MAILED FIGURE WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE EMPTY ARMOUR?
I ALSO REMEMBER I'M PERISHIN' FRIGHTENED. WE'RE MAD TO MESS ABOUT WITH WHAT WE DON'T UNDERSTAND.

"SCAR" RALY WAS DELIVERED TO HOSPITAL...
WE'LL LEARN NOTHING FROM HIM... HE'S TOO SHOCKED. SOMEONE WANTED HIM DEAD AND, BUT FOR US, NEARLY SUCCEEDED. NOW WE HAVEN'T A CLUE!
WE HAVE, CHIEF. I WENT THROUGH HIS POCKETS AND FOUND THIS...


KNOCKER WAS AN EXPERT PICK-POCKET...
IT'S A PLAN OF HAWLEY GRANGE... WHERE THE HAWLEY DIAMONDS ARE KEPT. WORTH A BOMB... I ONCE THOUGHT OF NICKING 'EM MYSELF.
CASUALTY DEPT
KNOCKER, YOU AND I ARE GOING TO PAY A VISIT TO THE GRANGE!

HAWLEY GRANGE... WITH ITS GUARDS, DOGS AND ELECT-RIFIED FENCE... WAS A FORTRESS. TV 'EYES' SCANNED ITS GROUNDS...
YOUR TURN TO TAKE OVER PATROL!
I DON'T SEE WHY WE BOTHER. A GHOST COULDN'T GET IN HERE UNDETECTED!

BUT THE PLAN TAKEN FROM RALY TOLD LASH A WAY...
CHIEF, YOU RECKON RALY MEANT TO STEAL THE DIAMONDS? THAT'S WHY HE NEARLY GOT KILLED?
I DON'T KNOW... BUT THERE MUST BE SOME LINK BETWEEN THE GHOSTLY FIGURES OF GELFORD ABBEY AND HERE...

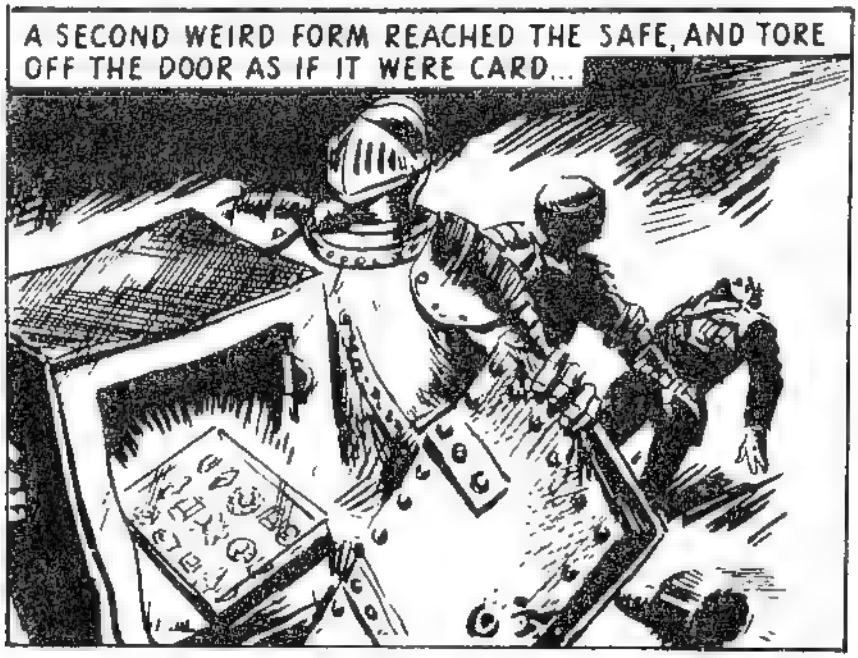
THEY PADDLED INTO AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL, WHICH AT ONE POINT WAS SEALED AGAINST EVERYTHING BUT THE RIVER...
JUST LIKE OLD TIMES. ALARM DISCONNECTED AND MY OLD 'CUTTER' WORKING A TREAT!
WHOEVER MADE OUT THIS PLAN KNEW HIS JOB.

AT LAST THEY WERE WITHIN THE MOONLIT GROUNDS...
WE KNOW WHERE ALL THE TV GADGETS ARE PLACED. WHAT NOW? COR, MY SCALP'S PRICKLING AGAIN.
WE KEEP WATCH! I WANT TO MOVE AS CLOSE AS WE CAN TO THE GRANGE!
KNOCKER WAS NOT THE ONLY ONE TO SENSE A FEELING OF EVIL. A PATROLLING GUARD SHIVERED UNEASILY... AND BEHIND HIM A SCARECROW DRAGGED ITSELF FROM THE GROUND!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH ME? THE JOB MUST BE GETTING ME DOWN!
ONLY A FEW YARDS AWAY A SCARECROW MOVED BEHIND ONE OF THE GUARDS...
AAARGH!
CHIEF, LOOK!

A SCARECROW! IT...IT'S COME ALIVE! THAT'S NO MAN DRESSED UP!
I'M GOING AFTER IT! I'M AS SCARED AS YOU ARE BUT I MEAN TO GET SOME ANSWERS

SUDDENLY, WITHIN THE GRANGE, ALL THE LIGHTS WENT OUT:..
WHAT'S HAPPENING? THAT.. THAT SUIT OF MAIL MOVED!

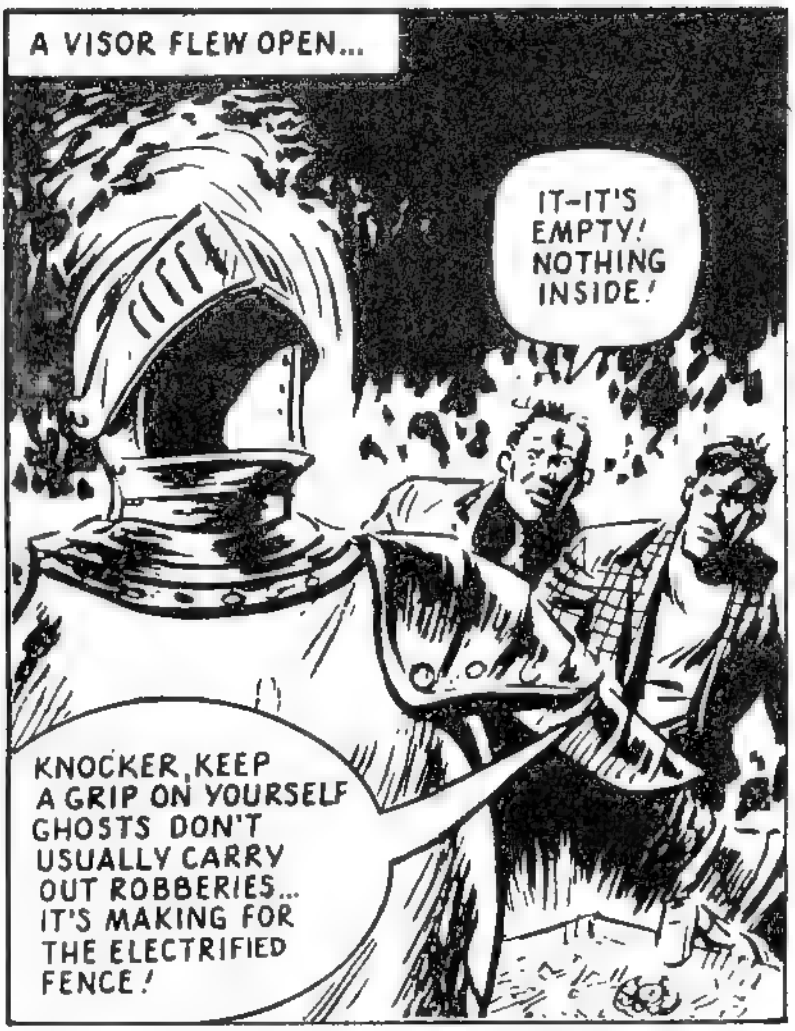
BEFORE THE GUARD COULD REACH THE ALARM . . .
NO..... AAAAUGH!


A SECOND WEIRD FORM REACHED THE SAFE, AND TORE OFF THE DOOR AS IF IT WERE CARD...

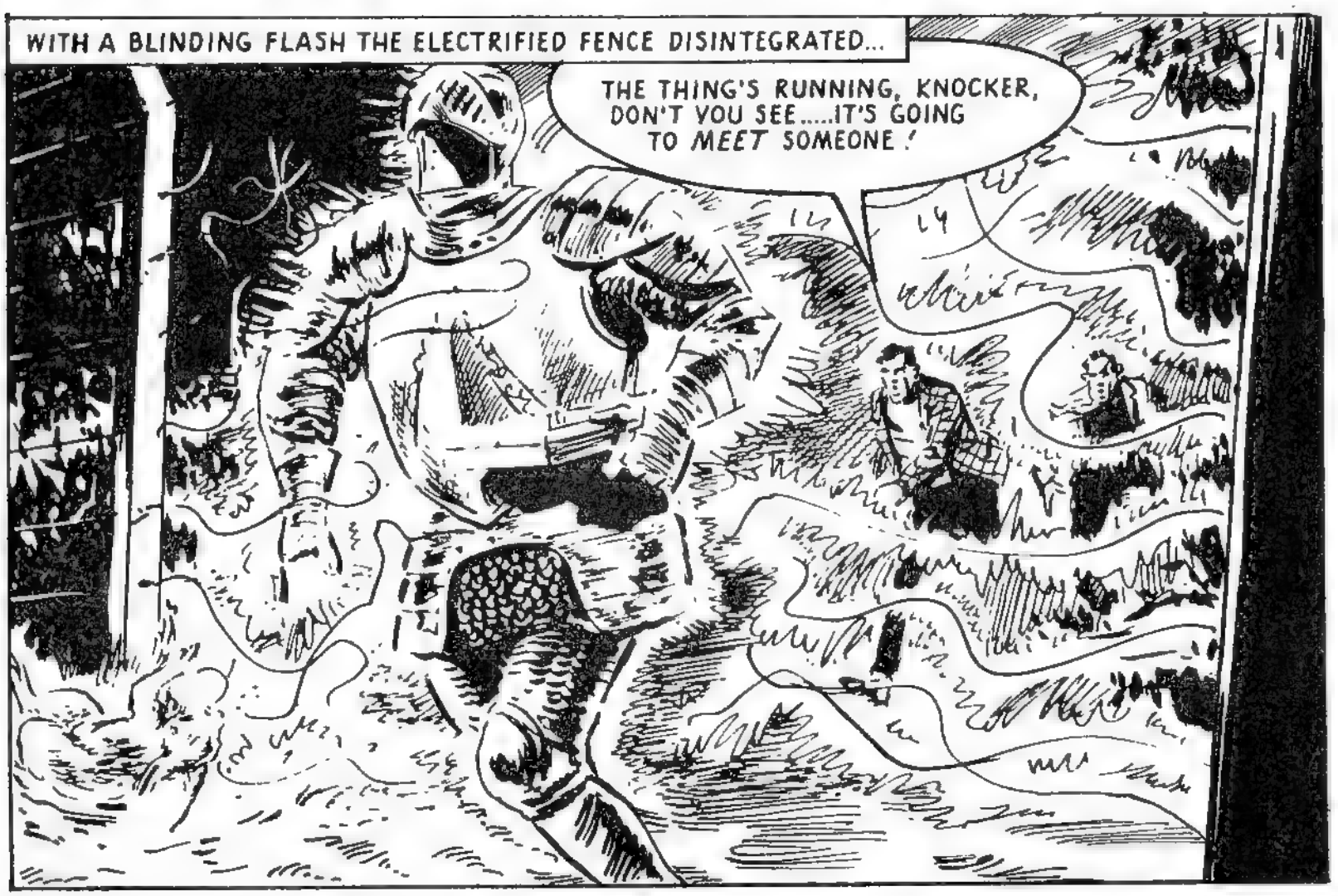
OTHER HOUSE GUARDS WERE SWEPT ASIDE
IT'S GOT THE DIAMONDS... UGH!

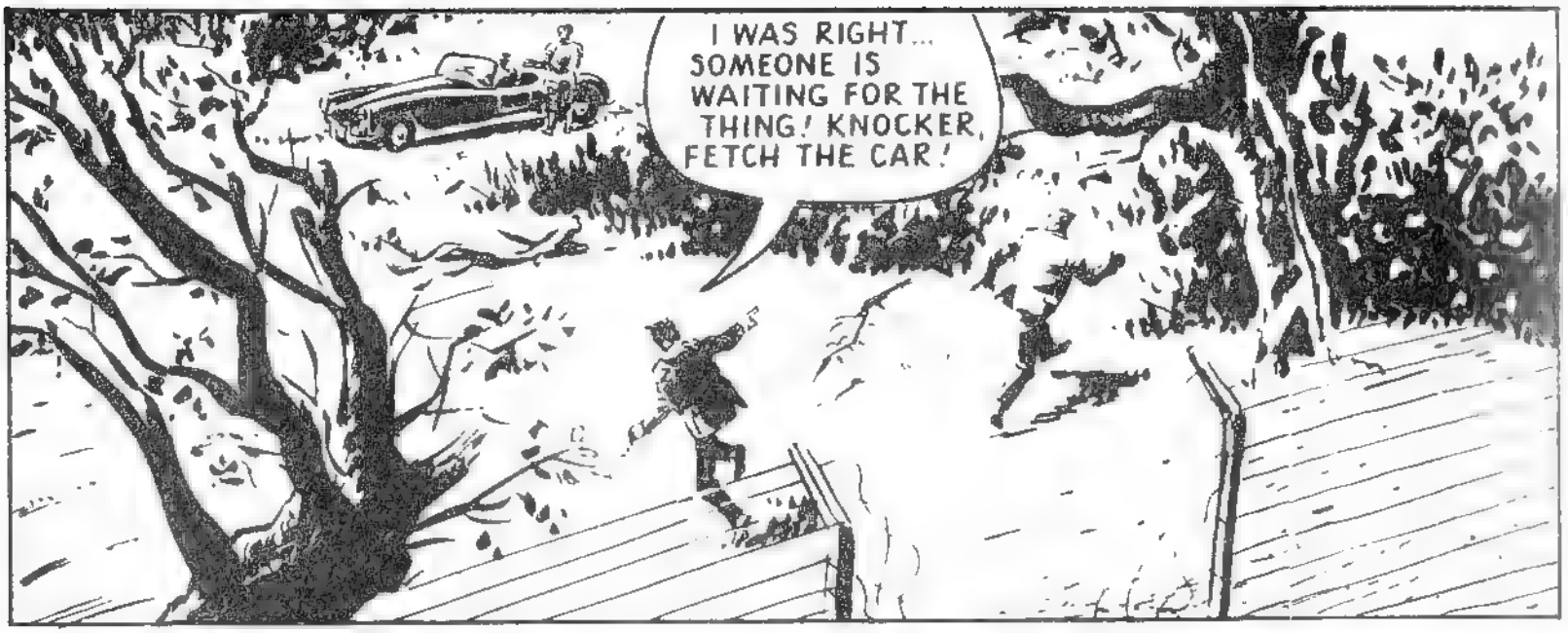
EVEN AS KNOCKER AND LASH REACHED THE GRANGE...
LOOK OUT! IT'S COME STRAIGHT OUT THROUGH THE WALL!
A ROBBERY! THE HAWLEY JEWELS!

LASH HURLED THE FIRST THING TO HAND...
KEEP AWAY FROM IT, KNOCKER! IT'S STRONG ENOUGH TO TEAR YOU APART...
IT'S LIKE A ROBOT! NOTHING CAN STOP IT!

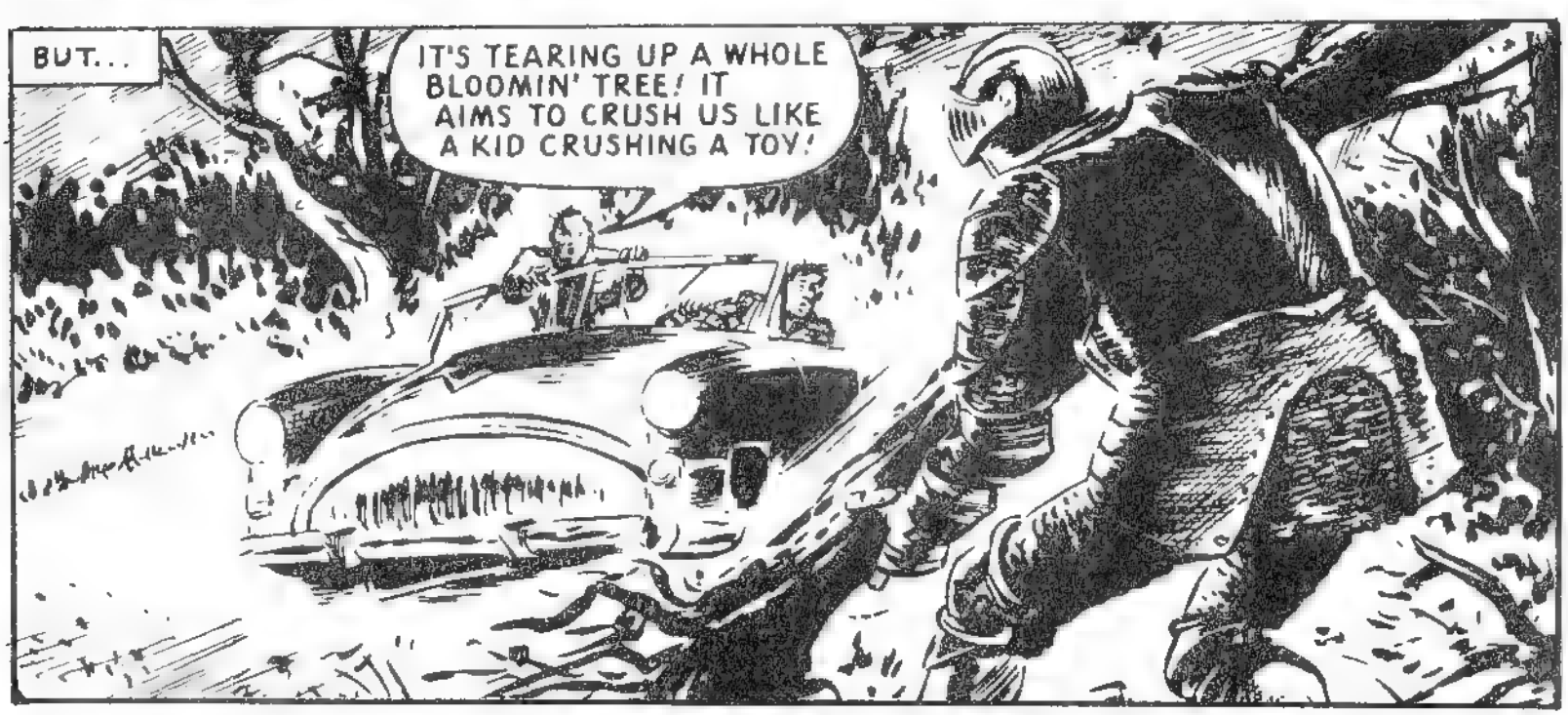

A VISOR FLEW OPEN...
IT-IT'S EMPTY! NOTHING INSIDE!
KNOCKER, KEEP A GRIP ON YOURSELF GHOSTS DON'T USUALLY CARRY OUT ROBBERIES... IT'S MAKING FOR THE ELECTRIFIED FENCE!

HOWEVER THIS IS DONE, IT'S FOR GAIN! A QUARTER OF A MILLION IN DIAMONDS WHERE THERE'S CRIME THERE'S A CRIMINAL *MIND!*
DON'T TELL ME THAT METAL BRUTE CAN THINK!


WITH A BLINDING FLASH THE ELECTRIFIED FENCE DISINTEGRATED...
THE THING'S RUNNING, KNOCKER, DON'T YOU SEE.....IT'S GOING TO *MEET* SOMEONE!


I WAS RIGHT... SOMEONE IS WAITING FOR THE THING! KNOCKER, FETCH THE CAR!

I'LL TAKE THE WHEEL! WE'RE GOING AFTER THE GETAWAY CAR!

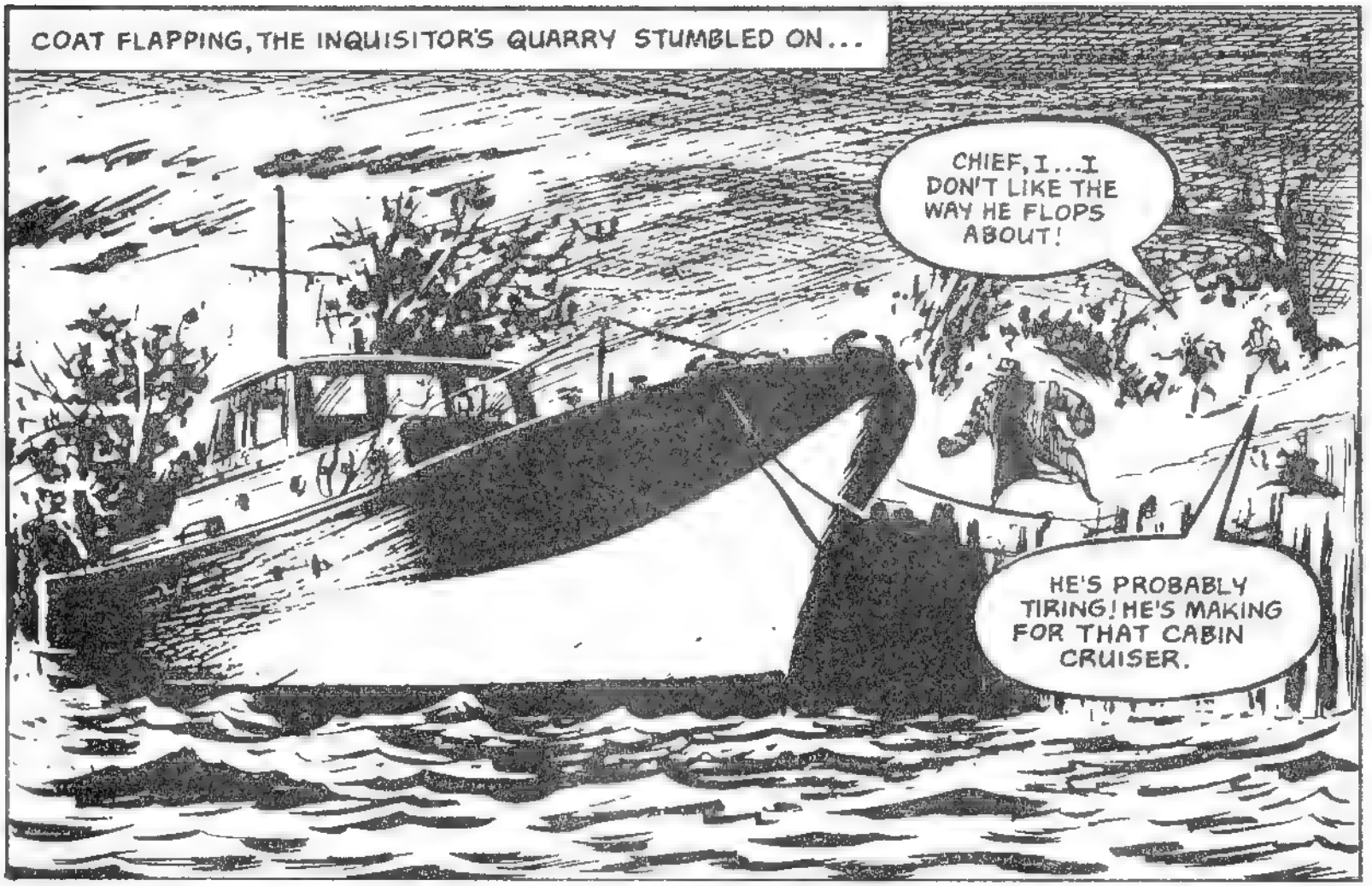

BUT...
IT'S TEARING UP A WHOLE BLOOMIN' TREE! IT AIMS TO CRUSH US LIKE A KID CRUSHING A TOY!

LASH SWERVED AS THE UNCANNY FORM STRUCK...
DUCK! I'M BRAKING TO SWING THE BACK OF THE CAR...
'STREWTH! HE-HE'S MISSED!
THE SWINGING REAR HIT THE MAILED SHAPE...
GOT HIM! THERE'LL BE NO SECOND CHANCE TO CRUSH US!

IT-IT'S EMPTY! NO GADGETS... NO-ONE INSIDE!
I'VE NO ANSWERS... YET! I'LL GET THOSE FROM THE DRIVER OF THE GETAWAY CAR.

A FEW MILES FARTHER ON...
THERE HE GOES!
HE'S ABANDONED THE CAR! HERE'S WHERE WE CATCH OUR MYSTERY MAN.

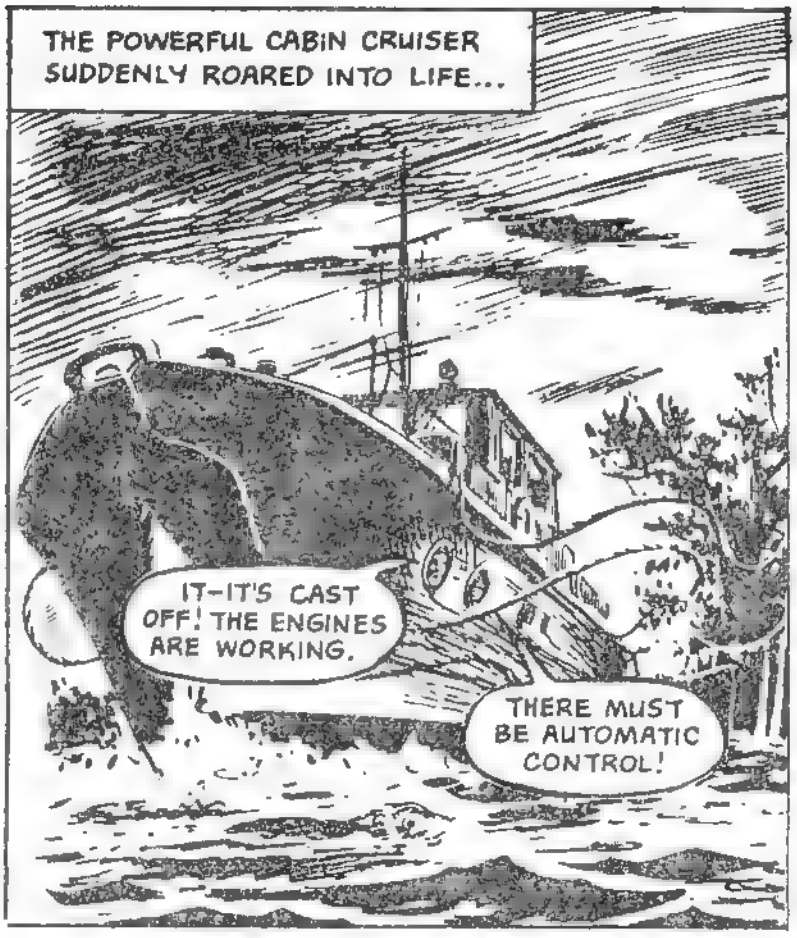
COME ON! HE'S PROBABLY ARMED... BUT WE'LL 'TAKE' HIM SOMEHOW.
AFTER WHAT WE'VE SEEN, GUNS WILL BE A RELIEF!

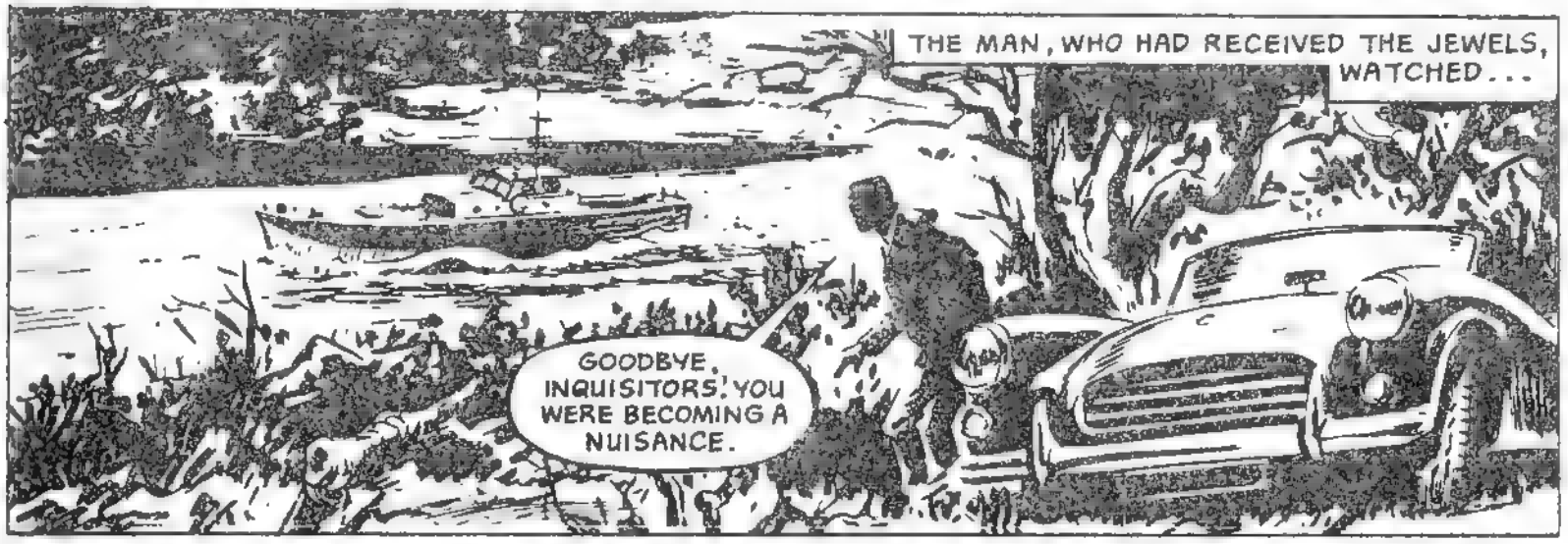

COAT FLAPPING, THE INQUISITOR'S QUARRY STUMBLED ON...
CHIEF, I...I DON'T LIKE THE WAY HE FLOPS ABOUT!
HE'S PROBABLY TIRING! HE'S MAKING FOR THAT CABIN CRUISER.

BUT IF LASH AND KNOCKER HAD LOOKED BACK...
SO LONG, TROUBLE-MAKERS! I LAID THE TRAP AND YOU FELL FOR IT. I KEEP THE DIAMONDS ...BUT YOU WON'T KEEP YOUR LIVES!

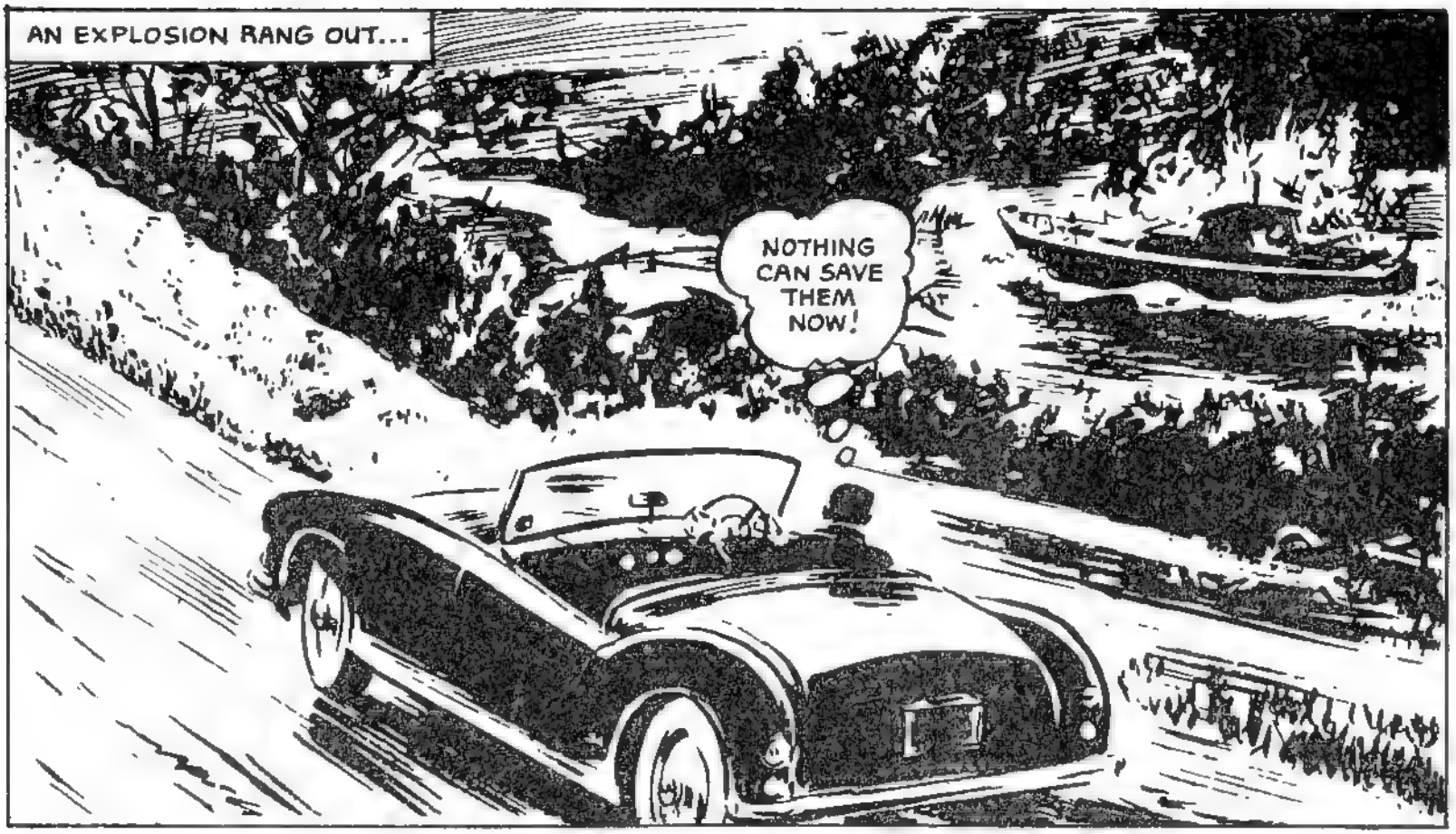
WHAT LASH AND KNOCKER PURSUED WAS NOT HUMAN!
SO LONG, SUCKERS! YOU'LL NEVER SOLVE THE MYSTERY NOW.
WITHIN THE CABIN, THE LIMP SHAPE COLLAPSED...
TACKLE HIM! IF HE'S DRAWING A GUN...
IT...IT'S AN EMPTY COAT AN' HAT! HOW? WHY? IT'S UNCANNY— TERRIFYING!
OH, NO!

THEIR HEADLONG RUSH HAD CARRIED THEM PAST AN 'ELECTRIC EYE'... AND A STEEL SHUTTER DESCENDED BEHIND THEM.
A TRAP, CHIEF! IT'S 'CURTAINS' FOR US!


THE POWERFUL CABIN CRUISER SUDDENLY ROARED INTO LIFE...
IT-IT'S CAST OFF! THE ENGINES ARE WORKING.
THERE MUST BE AUTOMATIC CONTROL!


THE MAN, WHO HAD RECEIVED THE JEWELS, WATCHED...
GOODBYE, INQUISITORS! YOU WERE BECOMING A NUISANCE.

A FATAL ACCIDENT HAS BEEN ARRANGED! TOO BAD YOU'LL NEVER LEARN THE SECRET OF THE 'POWER MEN'!


AN EXPLOSION RANG OUT...
NOTHING CAN SAVE THEM NOW!

THE LAUNCH PLUNGED DRAMATICALLY OVER THE WEIR...
THAT'S THE END OF THE INQUISITORS!

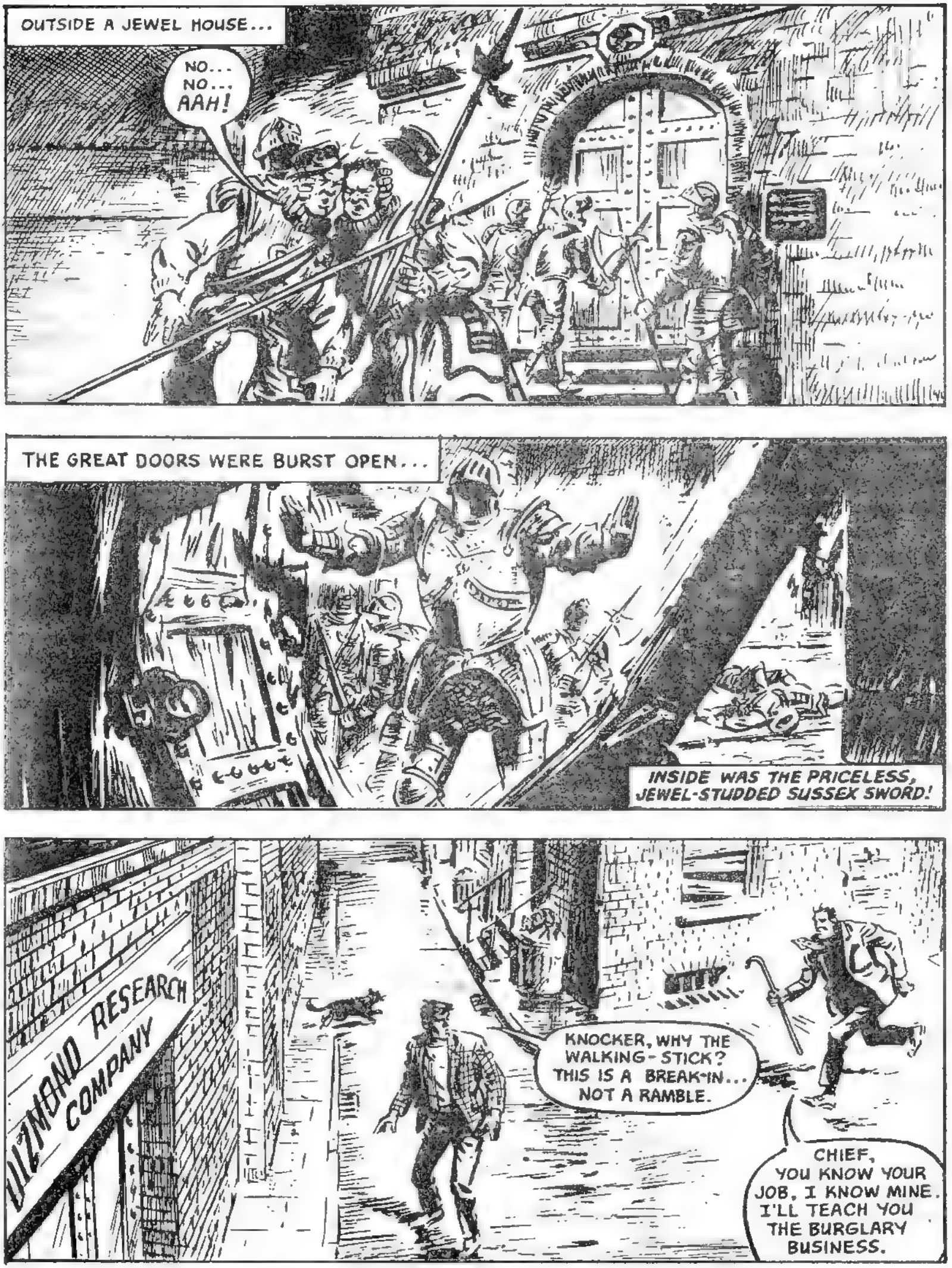
BUT THE KILLER WAS WRONG!
PHEEW, SWIPE ME! IT COULD HAVE BEEN US!
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN... EXCEPT FOR YOU BEING AN EXPLOSIVES EXPERT, KNOCKER!
THE LAUNCH HAD BEEN A FLOATING LABORATORY...
KNOCKER, YOU RECKON YOU CAN BLAST A WAY OUT?
SURE, CHIEF! I WAS THE BEST DYNAMITE MAN IN THE BUSINESS!
THE FIRST EXPLOSION HAD RIPPED OPEN THE CABIN...
THAT BLOKE IN THE CAR WON'T SEE US!
QUICK, WE'RE ALMOST AT THE WEIR!

THEY RETURNED TO WHERE THEY HAD LEFT THEIR CAR...
THE CHEMICALS ON THE LAUNCH WERE MADE BY THE 'DIZMOND RESEARCH COMPANY.' WE'LL TRACE THE PERSON WHO BOUGHT THEM!
IT SHOULD LEAD US TO THE OWNER OF THE LAUNCH.

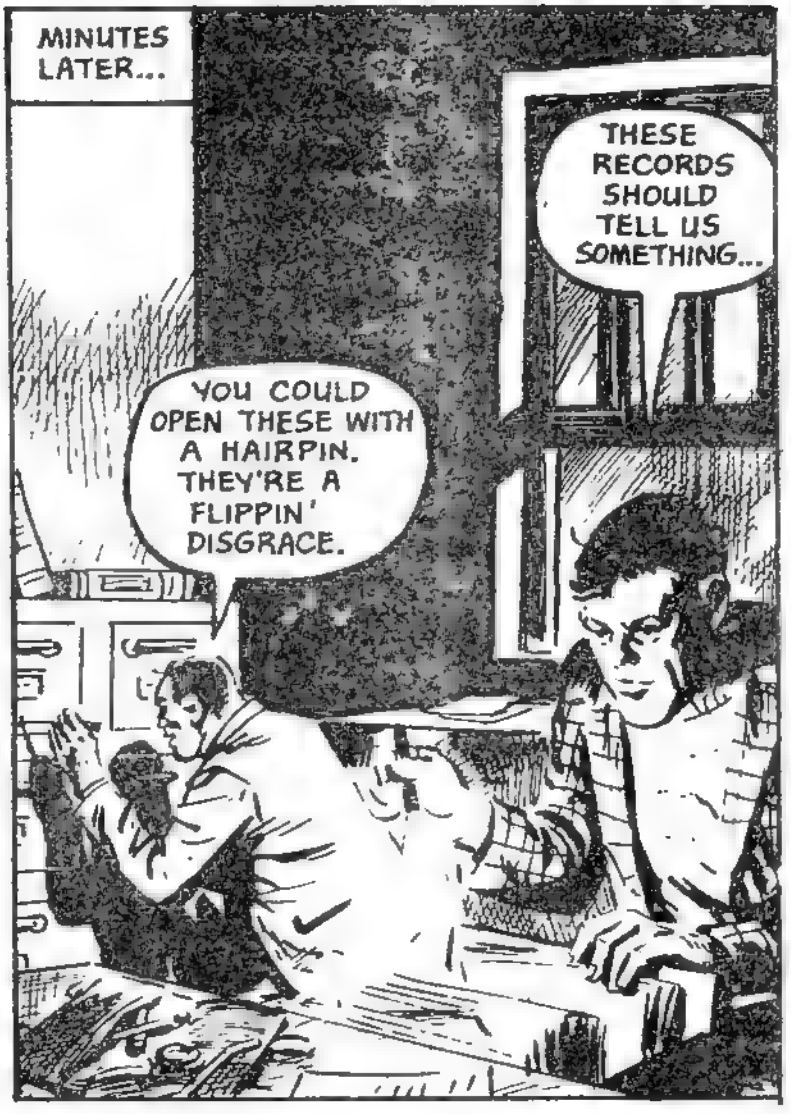
THE OWNER HOLDS THE SECRET OF THE ARMOURED FIGURES AND THE GHOSTLY POWER THAT BRINGS HARMLESS OBJECTS TO LIFE!
ONE THING'S CERTAIN— HE THINKS WE'RE DEAD BY NOW.

NEXT EVENING...
DIZMOND RESEARCH COMPANY
THIS IS THE PLACE, CHIEF! NOW WHAT?
WE HAVE TO GET IN. WE NEED TO LOOK AT THEIR RECORDS. BUT BE CAREFUL. ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN!

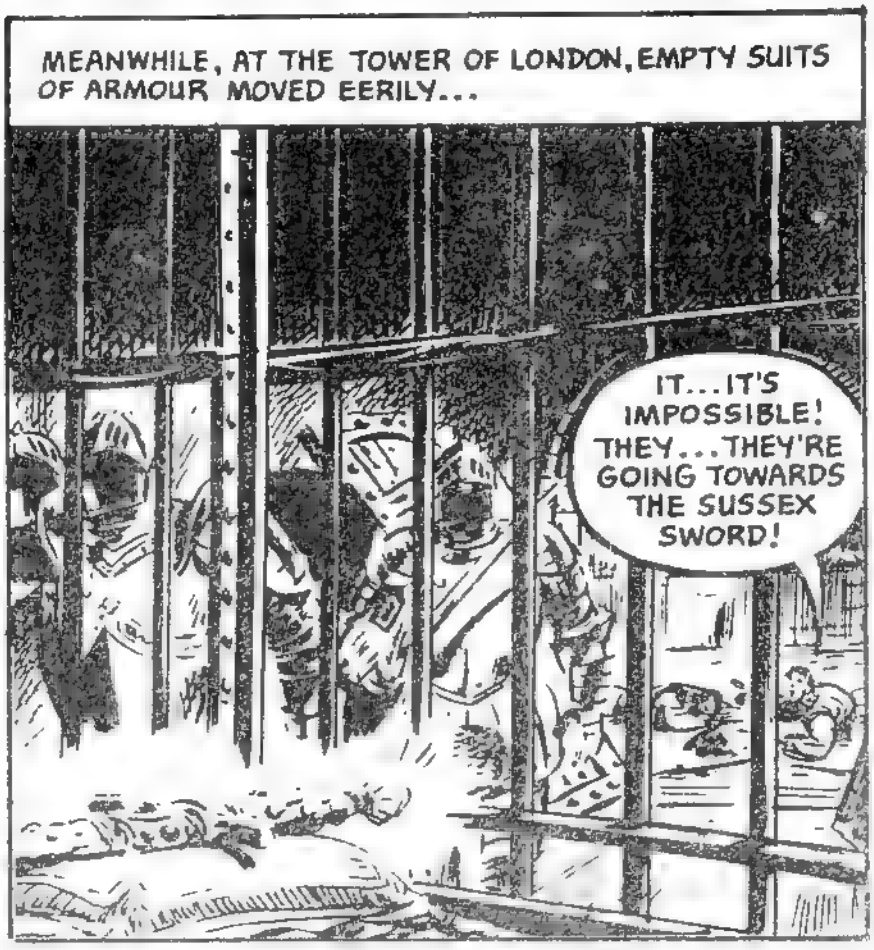
AT THE TOWER OF LONDON SOMETHING WAS HAPPENING...
I.... AAAUGH!


OUTSIDE A JEWEL HOUSE...
NO... NO... AAH!
THE GREAT DOORS WERE BURST OPEN...
INSIDE WAS THE PRICELESS, JEWEL-STUDDED SUSSEX SWORD!
DIAMOND RESEARCH COMPANY
KNOCKER, WHY THE WALKING-STICK? THIS IS A BREAK-IN... NOT A RAMBLE.
CHIEF, YOU KNOW YOUR JOB, I KNOW MINE. I'LL TEACH YOU THE BURGLARY BUSINESS.

THE INNOCENT-LOOKING STICK EXTENDED...
JUST HOOK IT OVER THE WALL AN' START CLIMBING.
KNOCKER, YOU'RE A VILLAIN!


MINUTES LATER...
THESE RECORDS SHOULD TELL US SOMETHING...
YOU COULD OPEN THESE WITH A HAIRPIN. THEY'RE A FLIPPIN' DISGRACE.

HERE IT IS! PROFESSOR PETRIE... HE'S THE ONE WHO ORDERED THE CHEMICALS... KNOCKER, PUT THAT WATCH BACK!
PETRIE LINKS WITH THE TERRIBLE FIGURES IN MAIL!


MEANWHILE, AT THE TOWER OF LONDON, EMPTY SUITS OF ARMOUR MOVED EERILY...
IT... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THEY... THEY'RE GOING TOWARDS THE SUSSEX SWORD!

NOTHING WITHSTOOD THAT FANTASTIC STRENGTH!
AS ALARMS BLARED, GUARDS RUSHED TO THE SCENE...
THEY'VE GOT THE SUSSEX SWORD. IT'S WORTH A FORTUNE!
THOSE THINGS ARE INHUMAN!

BULLETS COULD NOT STOP THEM!
NO...FOR PITY'S SAKE!
THEY'RE INDESTRUCTIBLE!
A METAL SHOULDER REDUCED A WALL TO RUBBLE...

THE SOUND OF SHOOTING HAD CARRIED TO SIMON AND KNOCKER...
IT'S COMING FROM THE TOWER! CHIEF, YOU DON'T RECKON...?
I DO...THE MAILED FORMS! THEY'VE STRUCK AGAIN!
IT'S THEM ALL RIGHT! THE METAL MONSTERS ARE MAKING FOR A CAR... AN' THEY'RE LOOT-LOADED!
THEY'RE ESCAPING! ONE...ONE OF THEM'S ABLE TO DRIVE!
HOLD ON...AND HOPE! I'M GOING AFTER THE BRUTES!
THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF!

THEN, FROM THE SHADOWS...
LOOK OUT! THEY MEAN TO STOP US! CHIEF, WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE!

LASH SWERVED MADLY . . .
IT'S TORN THE DOOR OPEN!
HANG ON! WE'VE FLUNG IT OFF BALANCE.

BUT ONE OF THE EERIE MONSTERS HELD TIGHT . . .

STONE ME! IT'LL TEAR HIM APART!

AAAGH!... TAKE THE WHEEL!

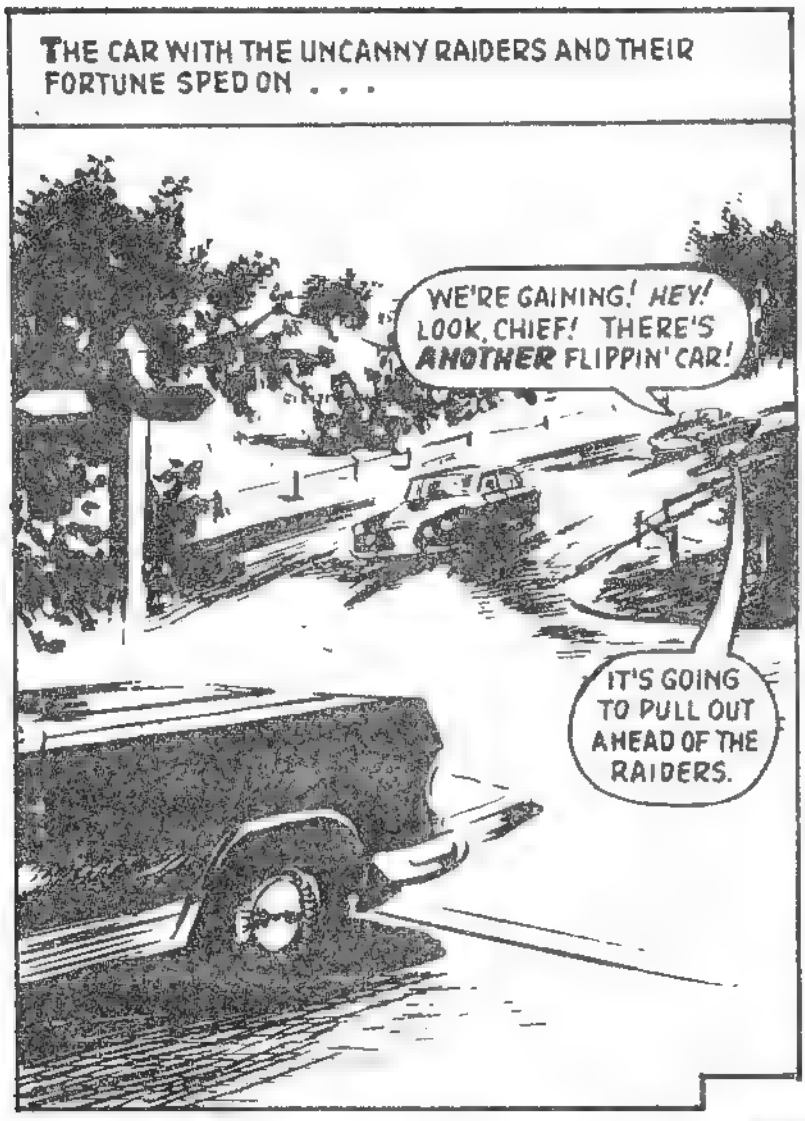
LASH, A SKILLED ESCAPOLOGIST, SLID FROM HIS JACKET . . .

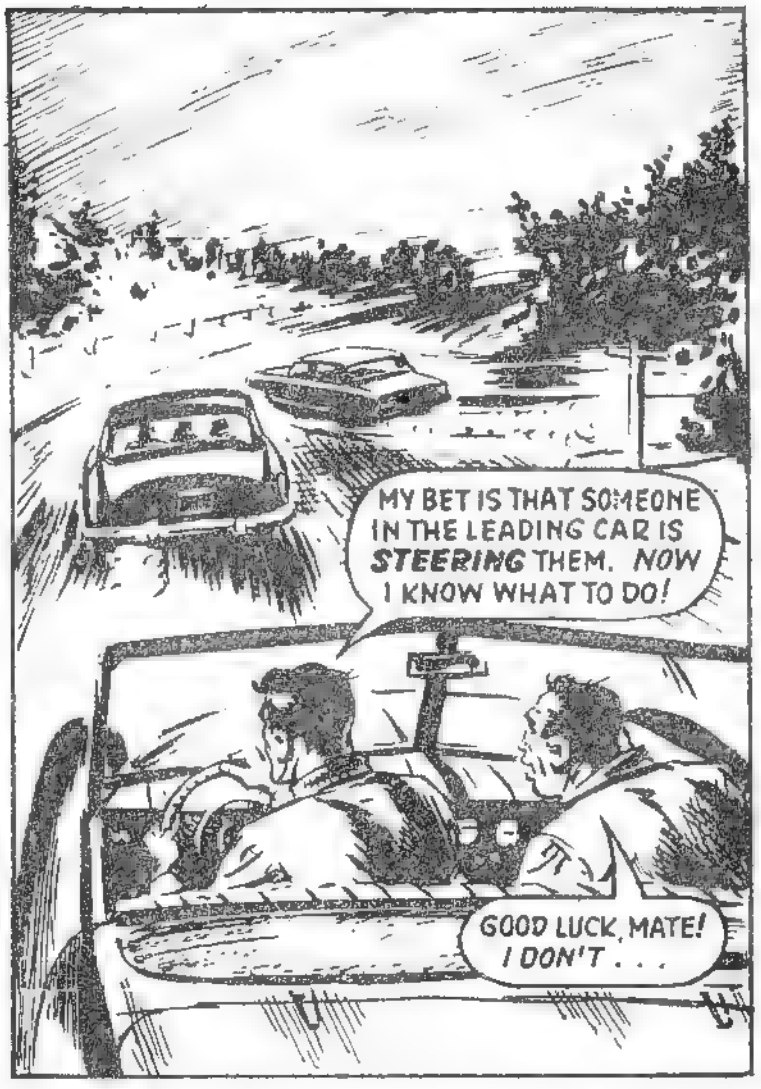
DON'T STARE, KNOCKER... STEER!

THE ARMOURED FIGURE FELL FROM THE CAR WITH THE JACKET IN ITS GRASP . . .

THAT'S GOT RID OF IT. SOMEONE MUST BE CONTROLLING THESE MONSTERS. SUITS OF ARMOUR CAN'T THINK.

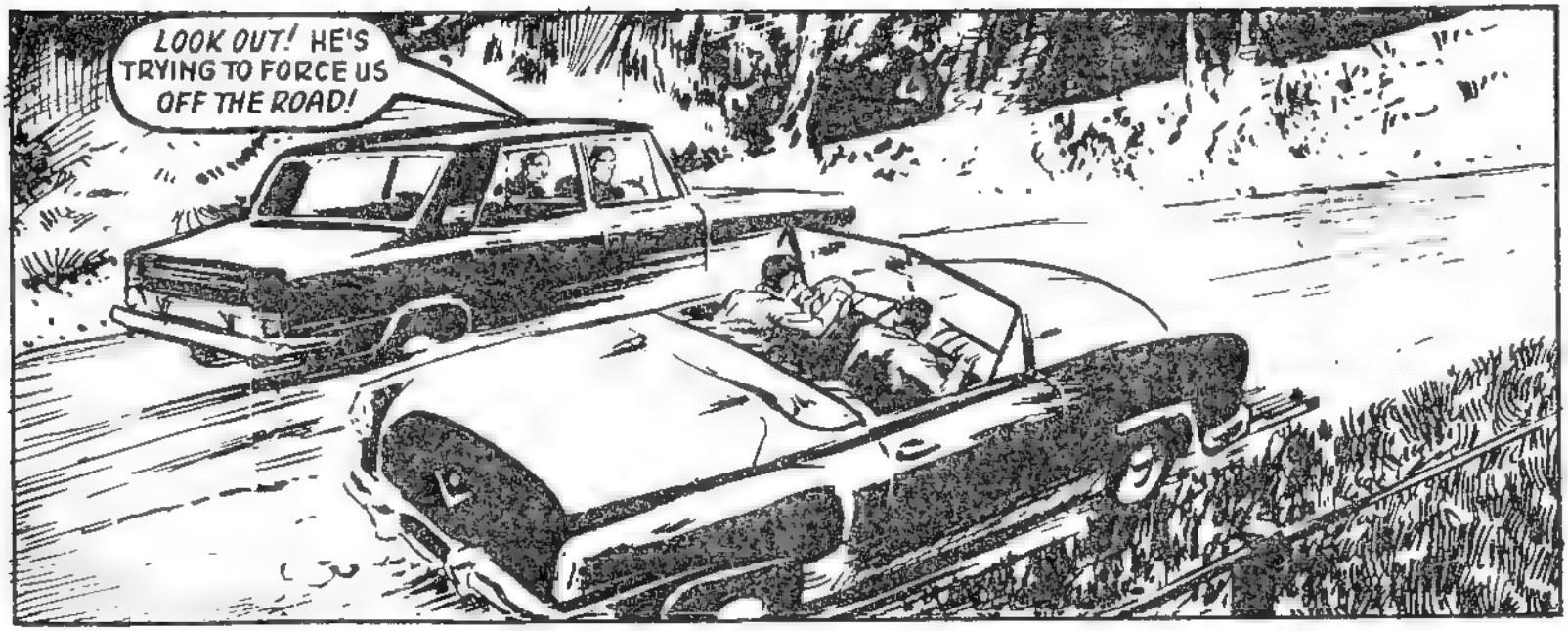
ME, I'M TOO SCARED TO THINK... I'M SHAKIN'!

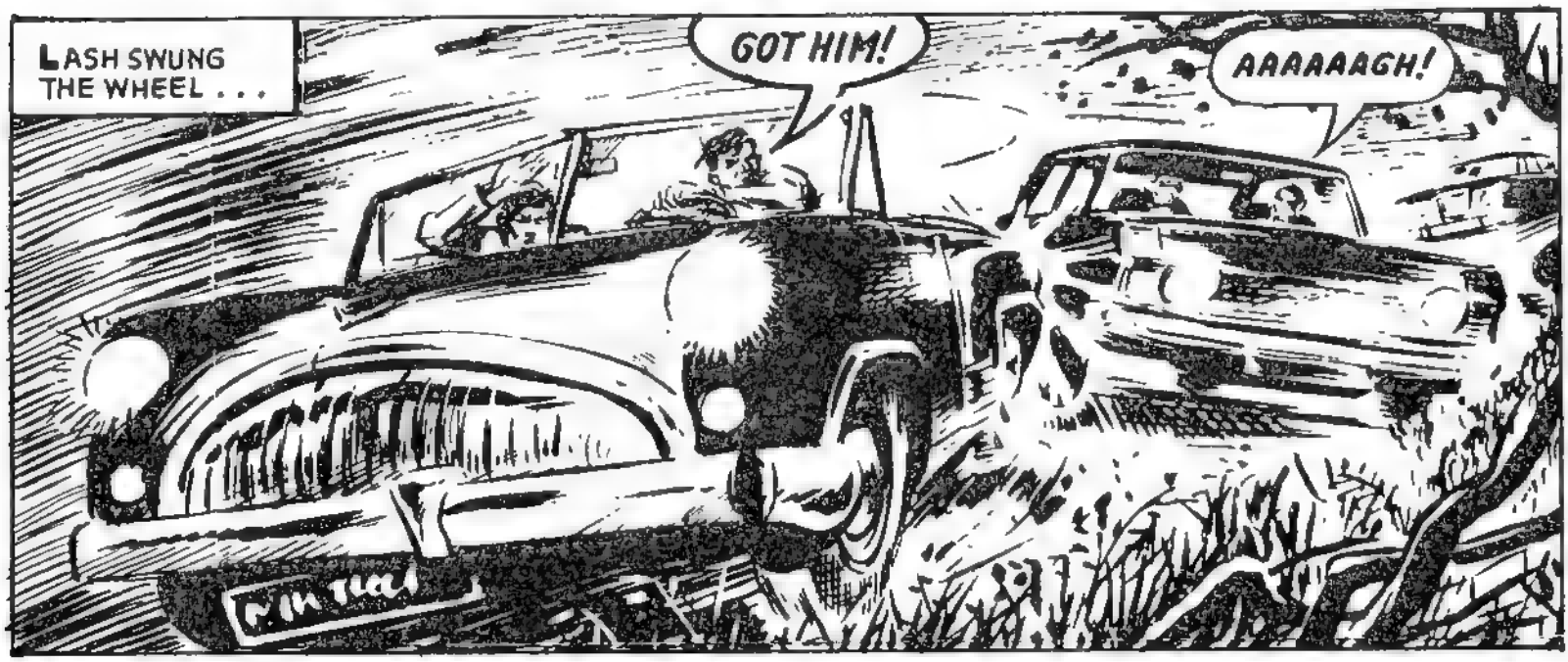

THE CAR WITH THE UNCANNY RAIDERS AND THEIR FORTUNE SPED ON . . .
WE'RE GAINING! HEY! LOOK, CHIEF! THERE'S ANOTHER FLIPPIN' CAR!
IT'S GOING TO PULL OUT AHEAD OF THE RAIDERS.


MY BET IS THAT SOMEONE IN THE LEADING CAR IS STEERING THEM. NOW I KNOW WHAT TO DO!
GOOD LUCK, MATE! I DON'T . . .

MEN IN PLASTIC MASKS LOOKED BACK FROM THE LEADING CAR . . .
LASH IS TRYING TO OVERTAKE! YOU FOOL, I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU'D FINISHED THE INQUISITORS FOR GOOD.
THEN I WAS WRONG! BUT IF EVER A SECOND CHANCE COMES...

WE... WE'VE PASSED THE IRON BRUTES... THEY HAVE THE SUSSEX SWORD!
IT'S THE HUMANS IN THE LEADING CAR I'M AFTER!


LOOK OUT! HE'S TRYING TO FORCE US OFF THE ROAD!


LASH SWUNG THE WHEEL . . .
GOT HIM!
AAAAAAGH!

BOTH CARS PLOUGHED BETWEEN TREES . . .
KNOCKER, BRACE YOURSELF!

FOLLOWING POLICE CARS HAD CLOSED IN FROM ALL AREAS . . .
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING! THE MAILED FIGURE DRIVING . . . IT'S COLLAPSED!
POLICE
AS POLICE REACHED THE WRECKED CAR . . .
THEY'RE . . . THEY'RE JUST ORDINARY ARMOUR!
THE SUSSEX SWORD'S SAFE AND UNDAMAGED. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER TWO CARS?
POLICE

CHIEF, THERE THEY GO! THEY'RE ESCAPING!
AFTER THEM... BUT BE CAREFUL! THEY'RE ARMED!
DESTROY THE CAR! LEAVE NO EVIDENCE! I'LL KEEP THEM BACK...
DOWN, KNOCKER! FOR YOUR LIFE!

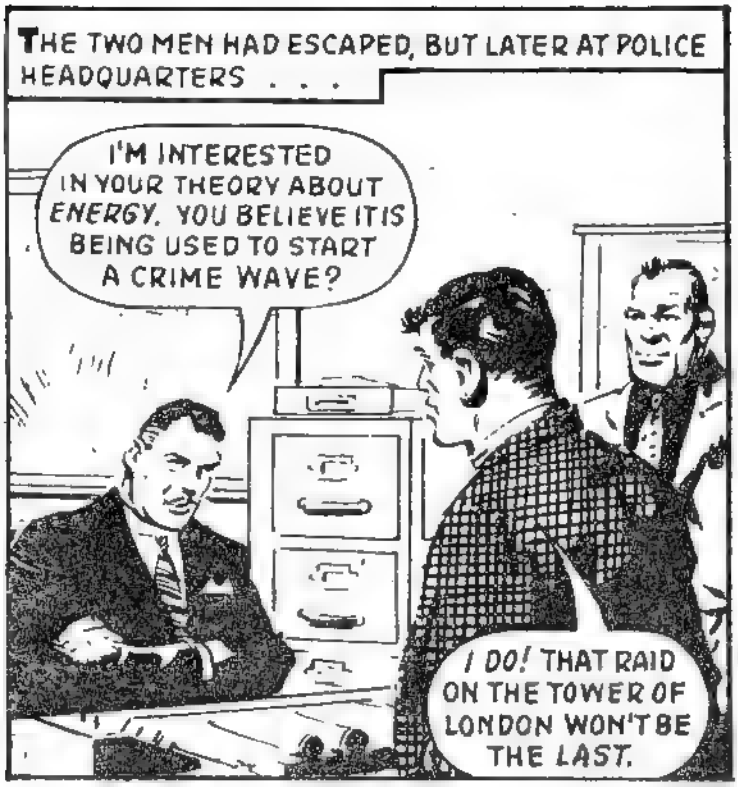
THE CAR EXPLODED . . .
WHAT MADE 'EM DO THAT?
THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE CAR THEY DIDN'T DARE LEAVE. SOMETHING LINKING WITH THE UNCANNY MAILED FIGURES.

MEANWHILE, THE POLICE HAD SEEN THE CAR CONTAINING THE ARMOURED FIGURES CRASH INTO A TREE . . .
NOW THEY'RE JUST ORDINARY SUITS OF ARMOUR!
OVER THERE! THERE'S SOMEONE SHOOTING!
POLICE

KEEP GOING, KNOCKER! DON'T LET THEM BREAK CLEAR.
THIS WAY, MEN! CLOSE IN!

ONE OF THE FUGITIVES SUDDENLY TURNED . . .
HE'S GOING TO THROW SOMETHING!
WATCH OUT— IT MIGHT BE A GRENADE!
THERE WAS AN UNCANNY GLARE AS THE MISSILE HIT THE GROUND . . .
NO EXPLOSION! ONLY A CREEPY GREEN LIGHT . . .
KEEP BACK! WE'RE IN DANGER... LOOK AT THE TREES!
BRANCHES SUDDENLY WRITHED WITH A TERRIBLE LIFE . . .
AAAAAGH! THEY... THEY'RE SEIZING US!

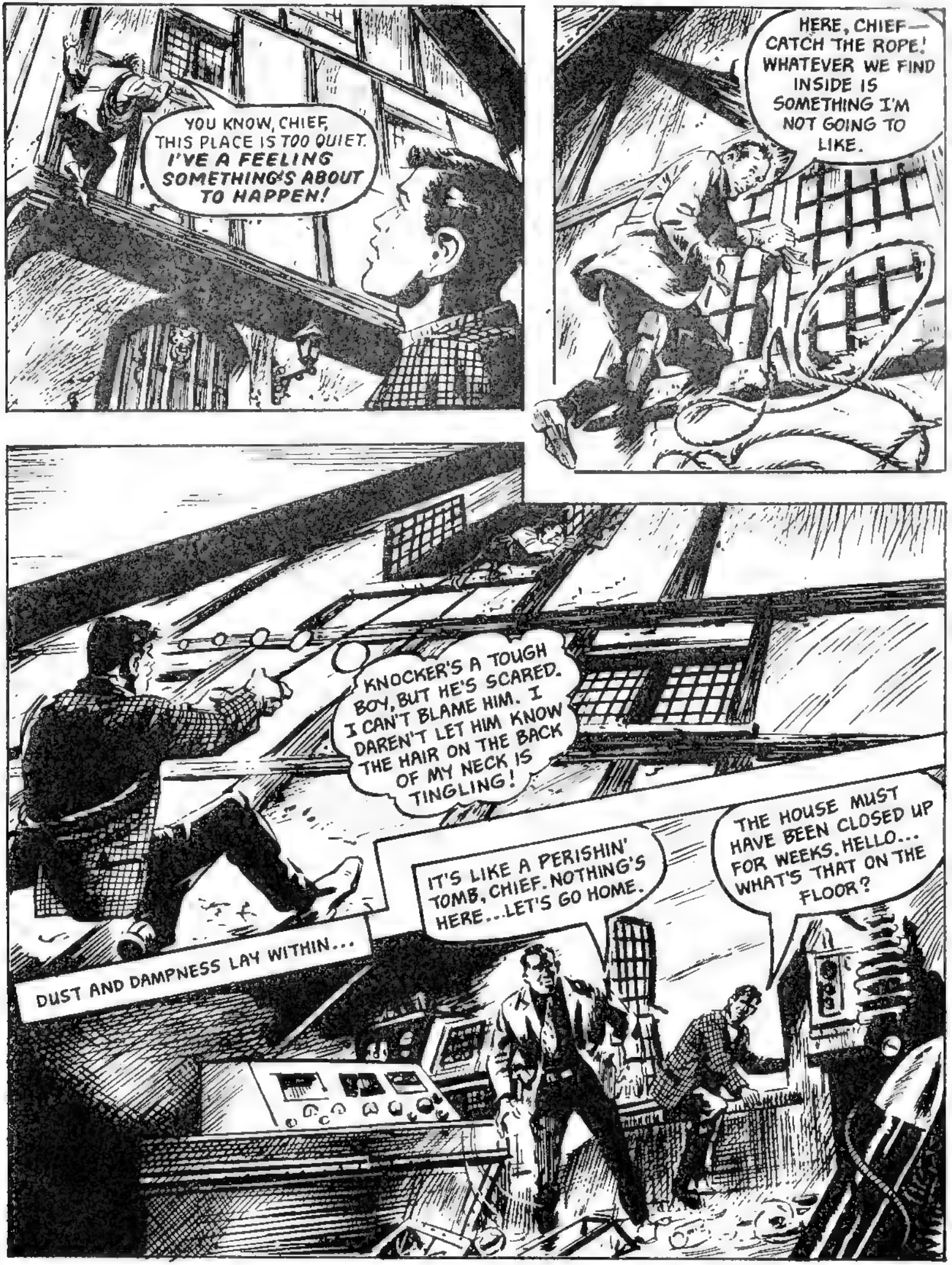
IT SEEMED CERTAIN THE VICTIMS WOULD BE CRUSHED. BUT THEN . . .
THE...THE GLOW'S FADING! THEY'RE LETTING GO!
THIS IS LIKE A NIGHTMARE!
THE GLOW DIED AWAY . . .
THEY'VE DROPPED US! AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON!
WE WERE TRAPPED BY SOME KIND OF ENERGY. PROBABLY THE KIND THAT BROUGHT THE SUITS OF ARMOUR TO LIFE.

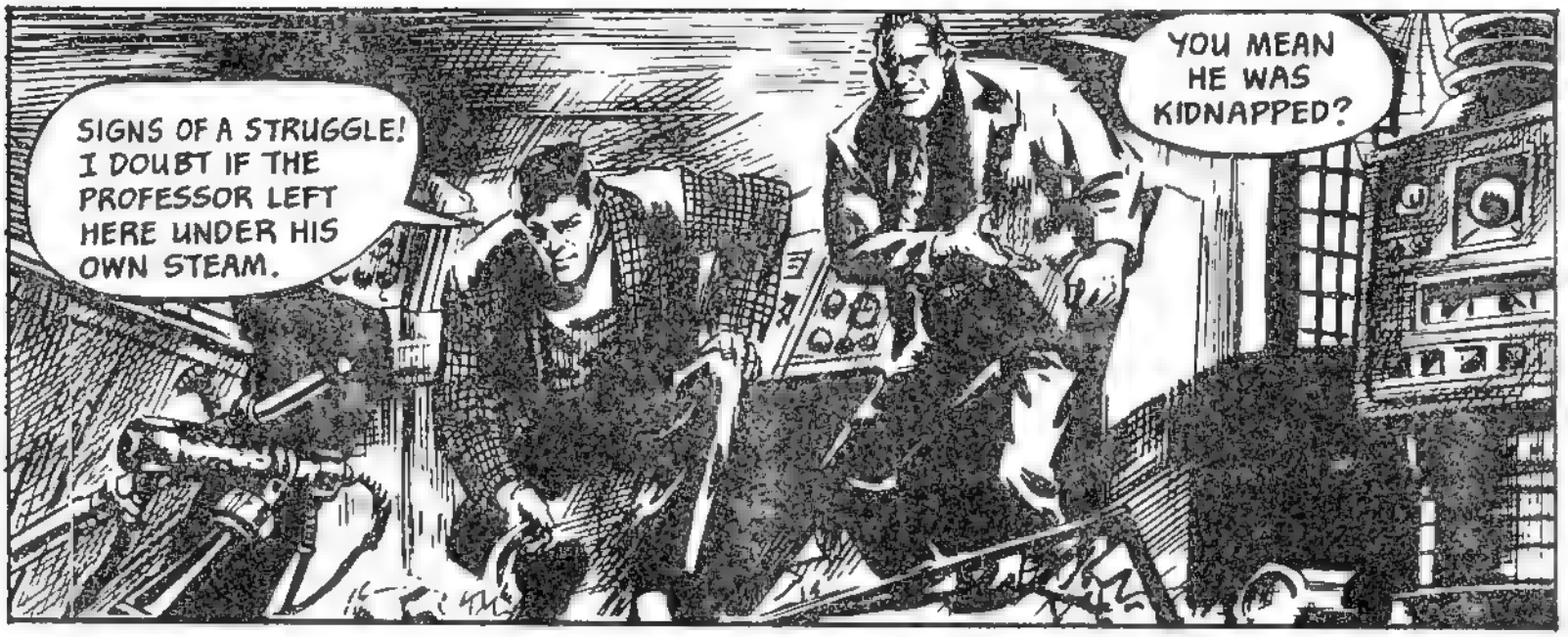

THE TWO MEN HAD ESCAPED, BUT LATER AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS . . .
I'M INTERESTED IN YOUR THEORY ABOUT ENERGY. YOU BELIEVE IT IS BEING USED TO START A CRIME WAVE?
I DO! THAT RAID ON THE TOWER OF LONDON WON'T BE THE LAST.

LATER . . .
YOU DIDN'T TELL THE COPS ABOUT THE CLUE LEADIN' TO PROFESSOR PETRIE. WHY?
BECAUSE I MEAN TO FIND THE PROFESSOR. I TOOK CARE TO LEARN HIS ADDRESS.

AND SO . . .
THERE'S HIS HOUSE ON THE MARSHES.
I DON'T LIKE THE *LOOK* OF IT! YOU'RE STICKING MY NECK OUT AGAIN!

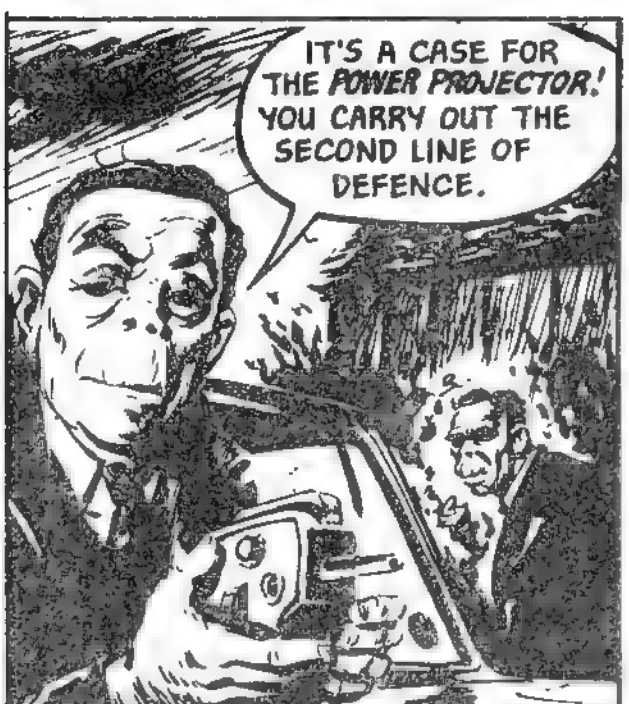
NO-ONE ANSWERED THE BELL . . .
IT'S EMPTY! L-LET'S GO!
KNOCKER, YOU'RE THE CAT-BURGLAR! *GET TO WORK!*


YOU KNOW, CHIEF, THIS PLACE IS TOO QUIET. I'VE A FEELING SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN!
HERE, CHIEF— CATCH THE ROPE! WHATEVER WE FIND INSIDE IS SOMETHING I'M NOT GOING TO LIKE.
KNOCKER'S A TOUGH BOY, BUT HE'S SCARED. I CAN'T BLAME HIM. I DAREN'T LET HIM KNOW THE HAIR ON THE BACK OF MY NECK IS TINGLING!
DUST AND DAMPNESS LAY WITHIN...
IT'S LIKE A PERISHIN' TOMB, CHIEF. NOTHING'S HERE...LET'S GO HOME.
THE HOUSE MUST HAVE BEEN CLOSED UP FOR WEEKS. HELLO... WHAT'S THAT ON THE FLOOR?


SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE! I DOUBT IF THE PROFESSOR LEFT HERE UNDER HIS OWN STEAM.
YOU MEAN HE WAS KIDNAPPED?

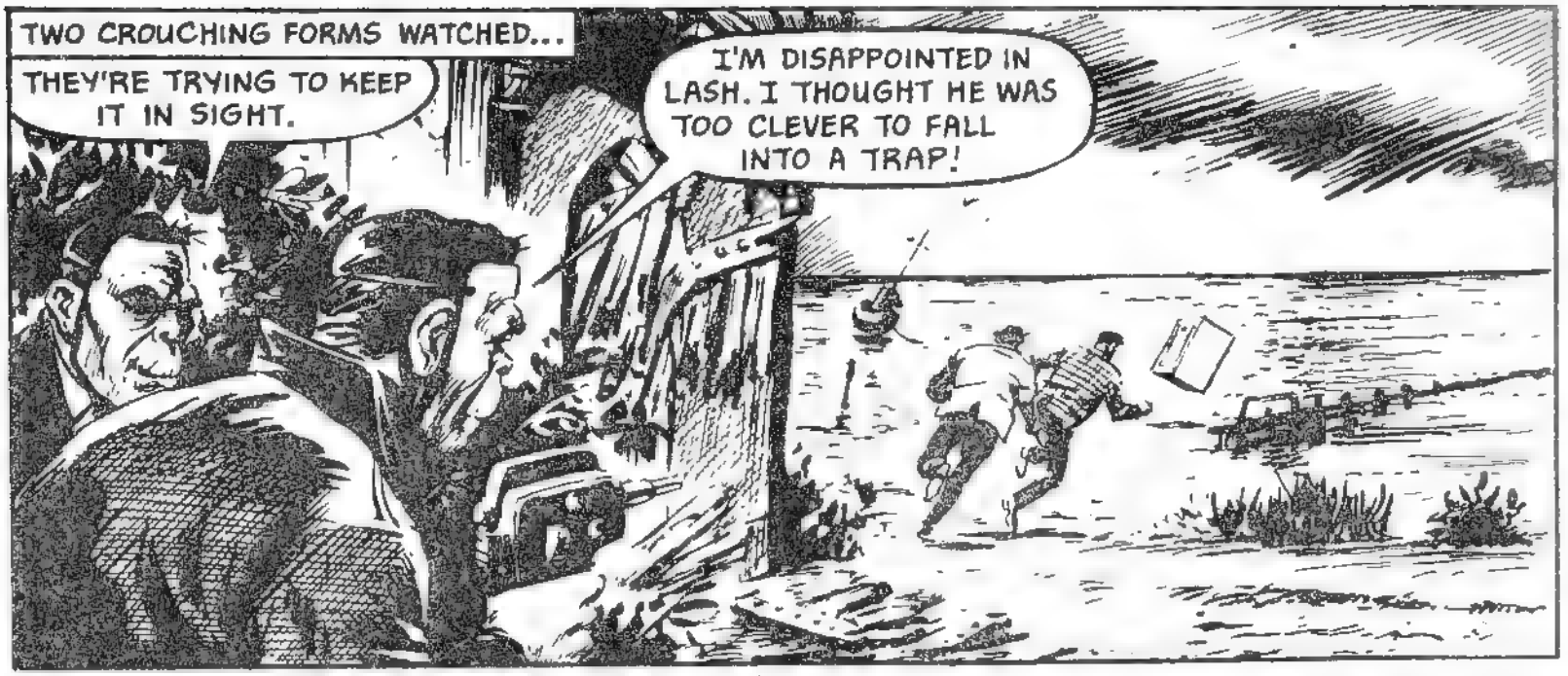
IT'S *VITAL* WE DISCOVER WHAT THE PROFESSOR WAS WORKING ON.
SO LET'S LOOK AROUND FOR A SAFE. I CAN "SMELL" ONE... IT'S INSTINCT.

A CAR PULLED UP SILENTLY OUTSIDE..
LASH AND WHITE ARE HERE.
TOO BAD FOR THEM! THEY'LL REGRET THEY EVER HEARD OF PROFESSOR PETRIE!


IT'S A CASE FOR THE *POWER PROJECTOR!* YOU CARRY OUT THE SECOND LINE OF DEFENCE.

MEANWHILE, SECONDS AFTER KNOCKER HAD FOUND THE SAFE...
IT... IT'S *RISING!*
KEEP BACK!

DUCK! IT MUST WEIGH A QUARTER OF A TON! IF IT HITS US...
IT'S FLOATIN' TOWARDS THE DOOR!
SOMEONE'S MAKING SURE WE NEVER LEARN WHAT'S INSIDE!
TIMBERS SHATTERED...


TWO CROUCHING FORMS WATCHED...
THEY'RE TRYING TO KEEP IT IN SIGHT.
I'M DISAPPOINTED IN LASH. I THOUGHT HE WAS TOO CLEVER TO FALL INTO A TRAP!

SUDDENLY THE SAFE CRASHED DOWN...
CHIEF, IT'LL SINK IN THE OOZE!
QUICK, DRAG IT CLEAR!

TOO LATE THEY REALISED THE TRAP.
AAUGH! IT'S A QUAGMIRE!
WE'RE BEING SUCKED DOWN!

COME ON... GET GOING! WE WANT TO BE WELL AWAY BEFORE THEY'RE FOUND.

WHOEVER'S IN THE CAR MUST HAVE PLANNED THIS.
CHIEF, WE'VE HAD IT! STRUGGLING MAKES US SINK FASTER..

A GUN! WHAT'S THE USE OF THAT?
IT'S NO ORDINARY GUN, KNOCKER... MORE LIKE A HARPOON.

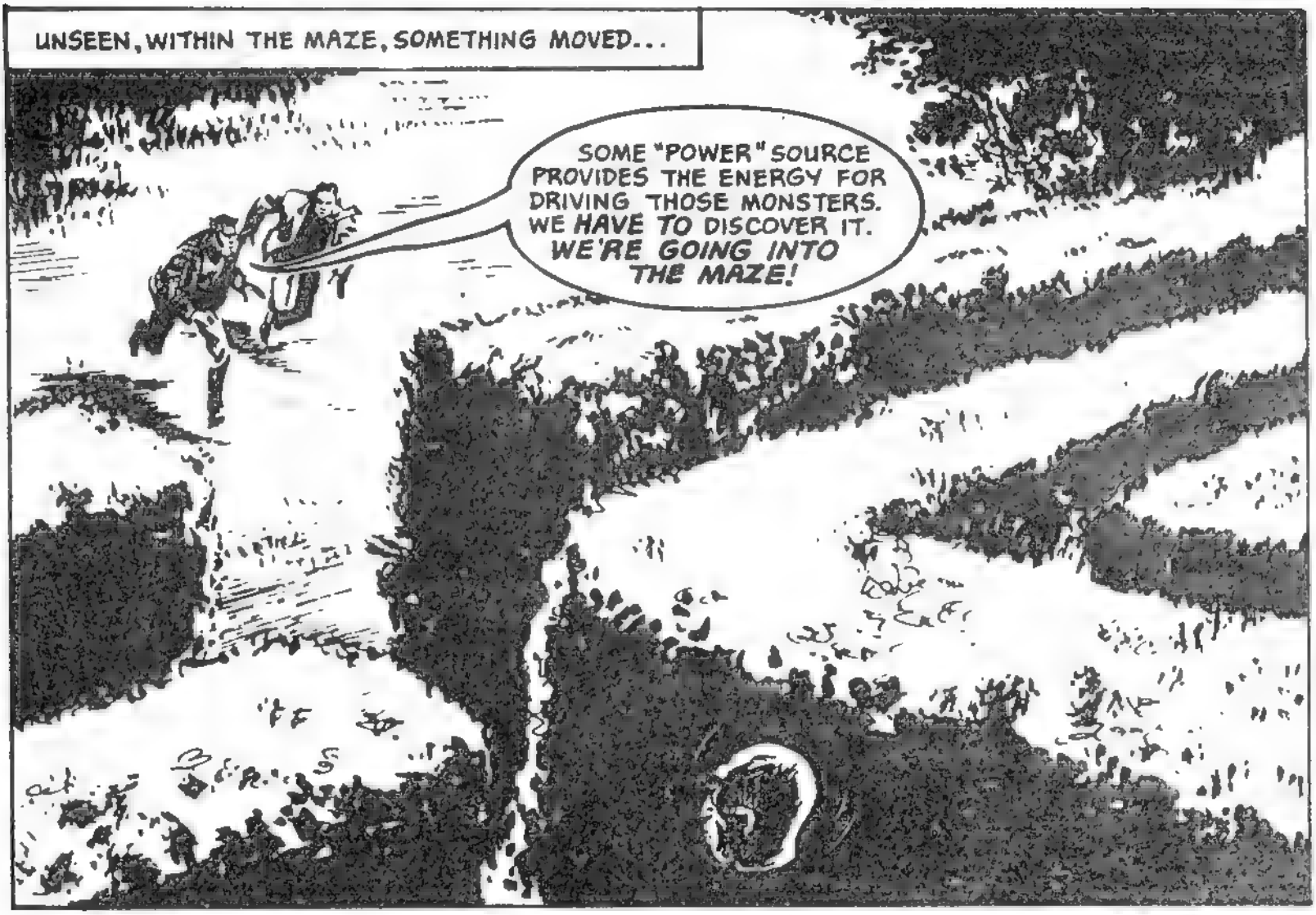
LASH FIRED...
THAT LINE IS A HUNDRED TIMES STRONGER THAN STEEL. HOLD ON TO ME! THE HARPOON HEAD SHOULD SUPPORT US BOTH.
STONE ME! WHAT A GREAT IDEA!

THE LINE HELD...
WE-WE'RE MAKING IT...

THEY WERE SOON FREE...
PHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE! NOW WHAT, CHIEF?
WE'RE GOING TO LOOK FOR WHOEVER KIDNAPPED THE PROFESSOR. I'VE CERTAIN IDEAS ABOUT THAT.
IT WAS AT GELFORD ABBEY THAT EVERYTHING STARTED. LISTEN, HERE'S WHAT WE DO...

TWO NIGHTS LATER, EERIE FORMS MOVED IN A CLOSED WING OF GELFORD ABBEY...
EVERY SUIT OF MAIL HAD COME TO LIFE..
OUTSIDE IN THE GROUNDS...
THE "POWER MEN" ARE READY! WE HAVE AN ARMY STRONG ENOUGH TO HOLD LONDON AT ITS MERCY.
WE'RE READY TO STRIKE!

TRANSPORT WAITED...
TIME TO LEAVE! OPERATION "CRIME INVASION" STARTS.
HIDDEN FORMS WATCHED...
A-A WHOLE ARMY OF THE BRUTES. CHIEF, YOU WERE RIGHT.
THEY CAME FROM THE MAZE.
THE VANS ARE LEAVING!
WHATEVER DEVILRY'S AFOOT, PRECIOUS LITTLE CAN STOP IT. KNOCKER, THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE...


UNSEEN, WITHIN THE MAZE, SOMETHING MOVED...
SOME "POWER" SOURCE PROVIDES THE ENERGY FOR DRIVING THOSE MONSTERS. WE HAVE TO DISCOVER IT. WE'RE GOING INTO THE MAZE!

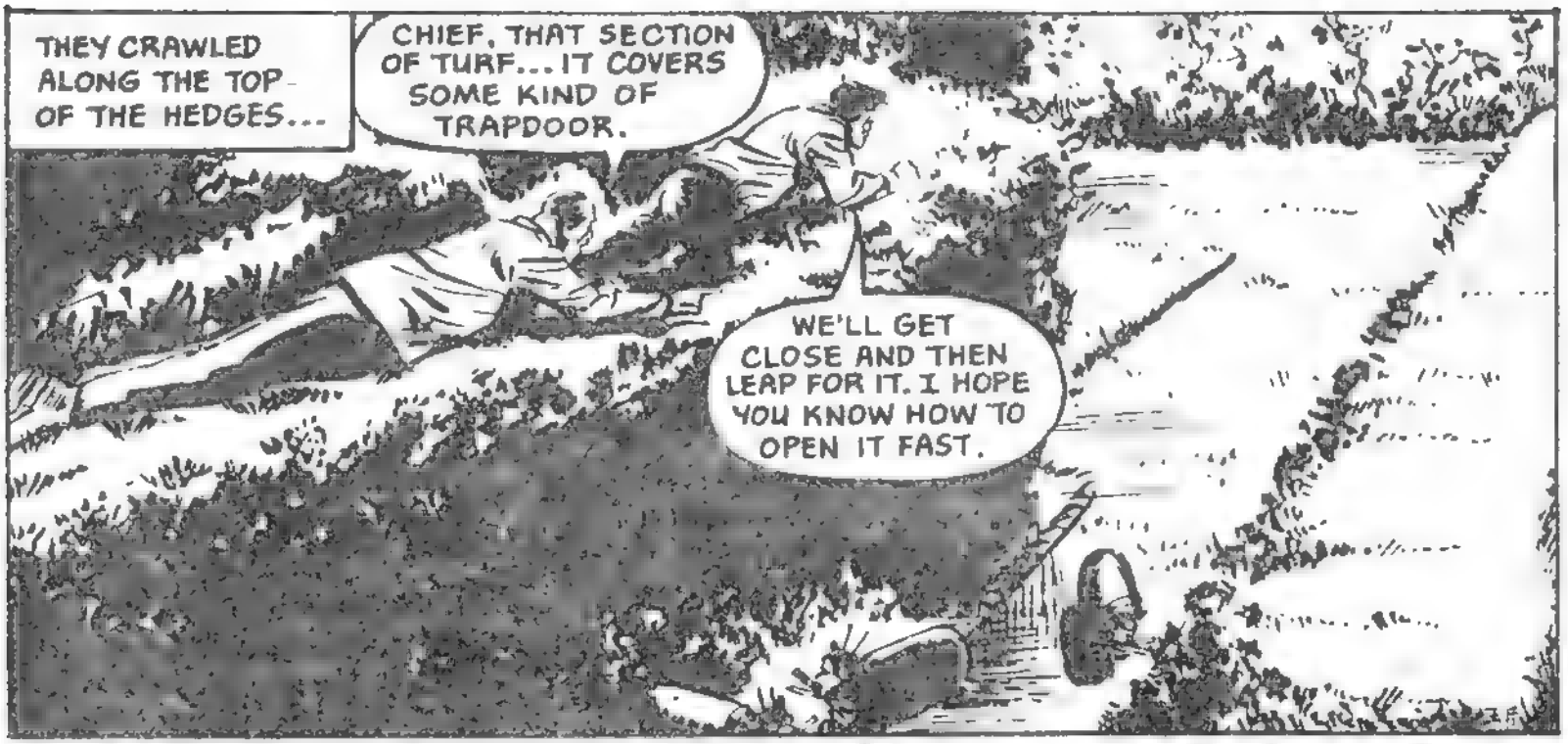
SUDDENLY A GLOWING SHAPE ROSE...
A...A FLOATING FACE! IT...IT'S TURNING TOWARDS US!
GREAT SCOTT!

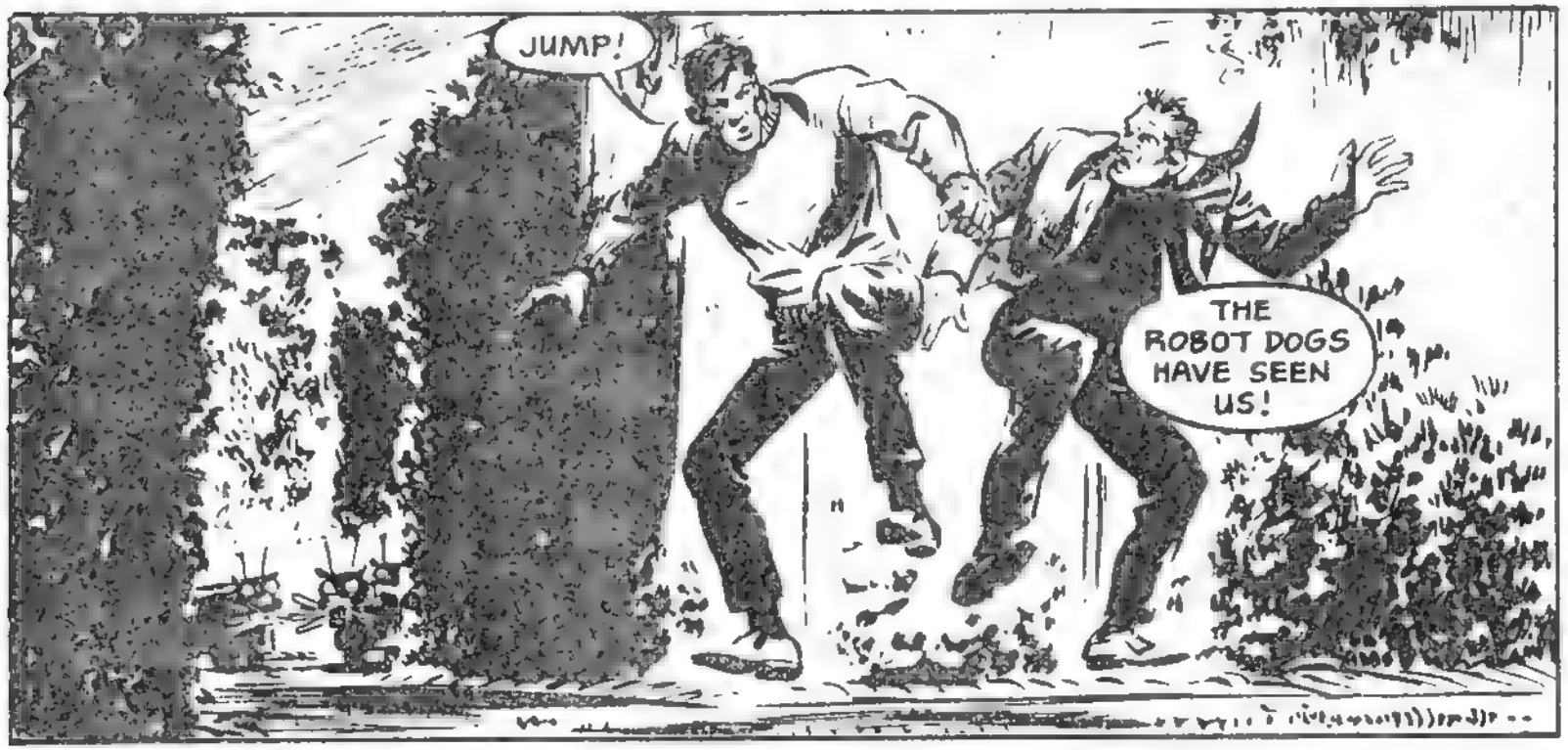
LASH SNATCHED UP A ROCK...
THAT'S NO GHOST... I'M SURE OF IT!
GLASS SHATTERED...
A CAMOUFLAGED TV "EYE"..... A SPY DEVICE! GET READY FOR FIREWORKS. OUR PRESENCE HERE HAS BEEN GIVEN AWAY.
AT A DIFFERENT PART OF THE MAZE MACHINERY WHIRRED...
...AND WEIRD MACHINES STARTED TO HUNT!
RUN! INSTEAD OF TEETH THEY HAVE REVOLVING CUTTER BLADES!
LOOK OUT... THEY'RE LIKE ROBOT DOGS!

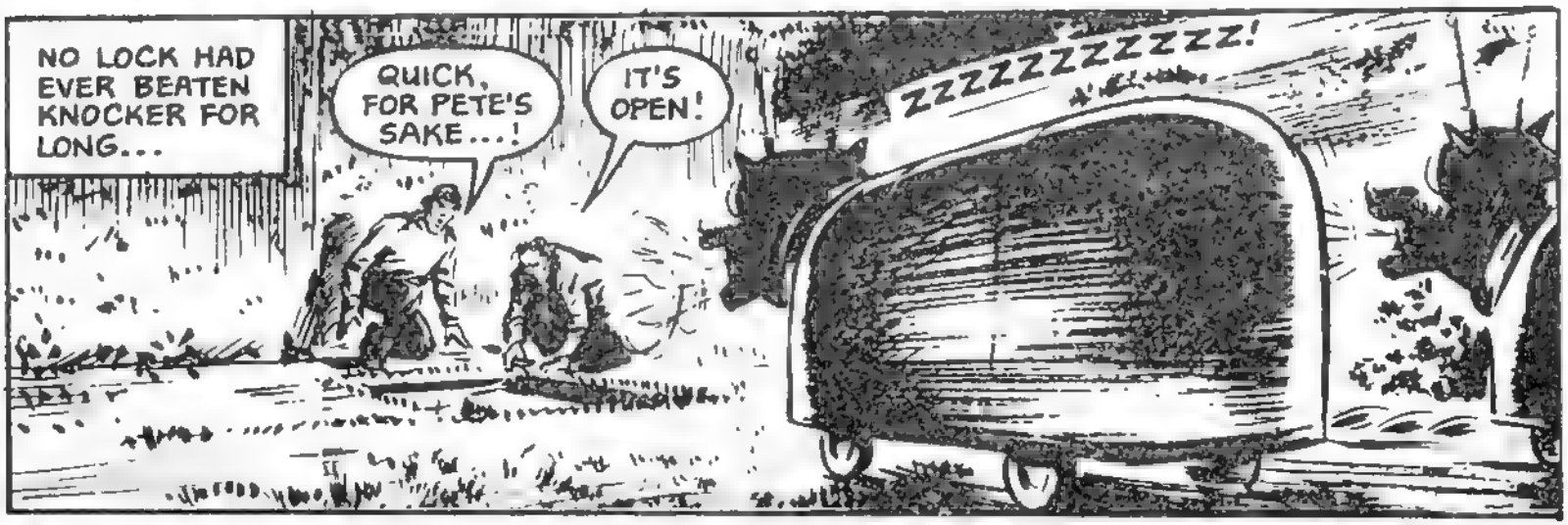
THE TERRIBLE HUNTERS WERE ATTRACTED TO ANYTHING MOVING...
WE'RE TRAPPED!
CLIMB THE STATUE! GET CLEAR OF THEIR LIGHT RAYS!
ZZZZZZZZ!

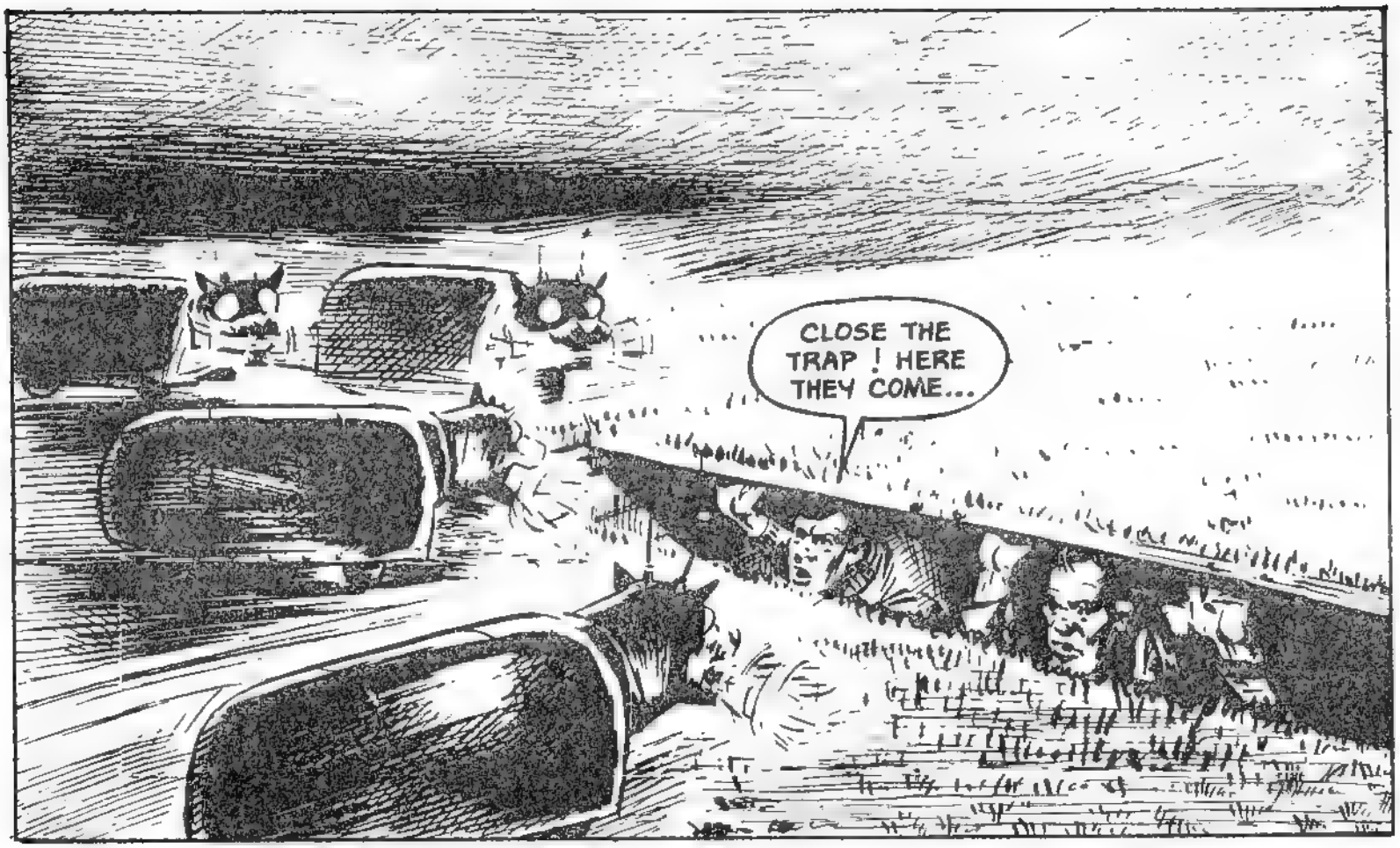
HURRY! I'LL HURL MY JACKET BEFORE THEIR RAYS...
PHEW! JUST IN TIME!

STREWF, THEY'VE CUT YOUR JACKET TO PIECES!
ANYTHING MOVING IN THEIR LIGHTS IS THEIR PREY.


THEY CRAWLED ALONG THE TOP OF THE HEDGES...
CHIEF, THAT SECTION OF TURF... IT COVERS SOME KIND OF TRAPDOOR.
WE'LL GET CLOSE AND THEN LEAP FOR IT. I HOPE YOU KNOW HOW TO OPEN IT FAST.


JUMP!
THE ROBOT DOGS HAVE SEEN US!


NO LOCK HAD EVER BEATEN KNOCKER FOR LONG...
QUICK, FOR PETE'S SAKE...!
IT'S OPEN!
ZZZZZZZZZZZ!

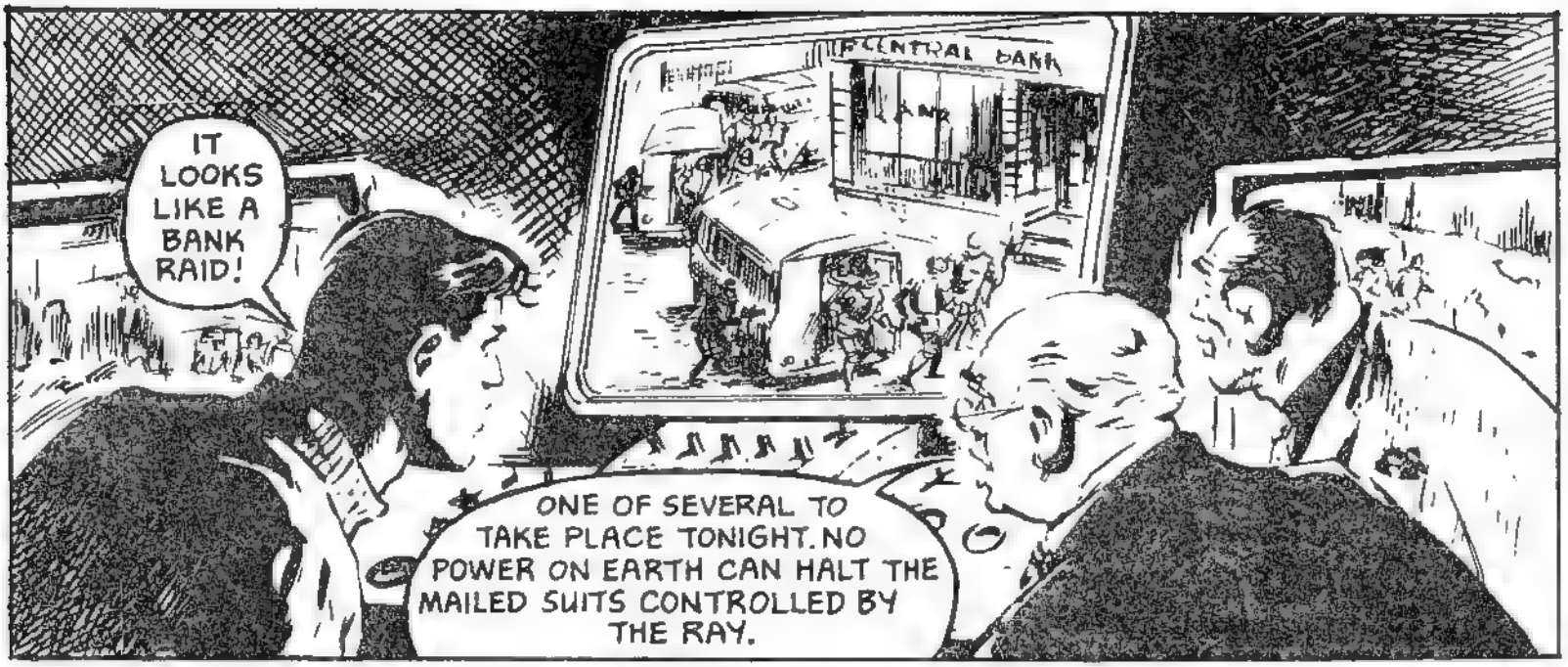

CLOSE THE TRAP ! HERE THEY COME...

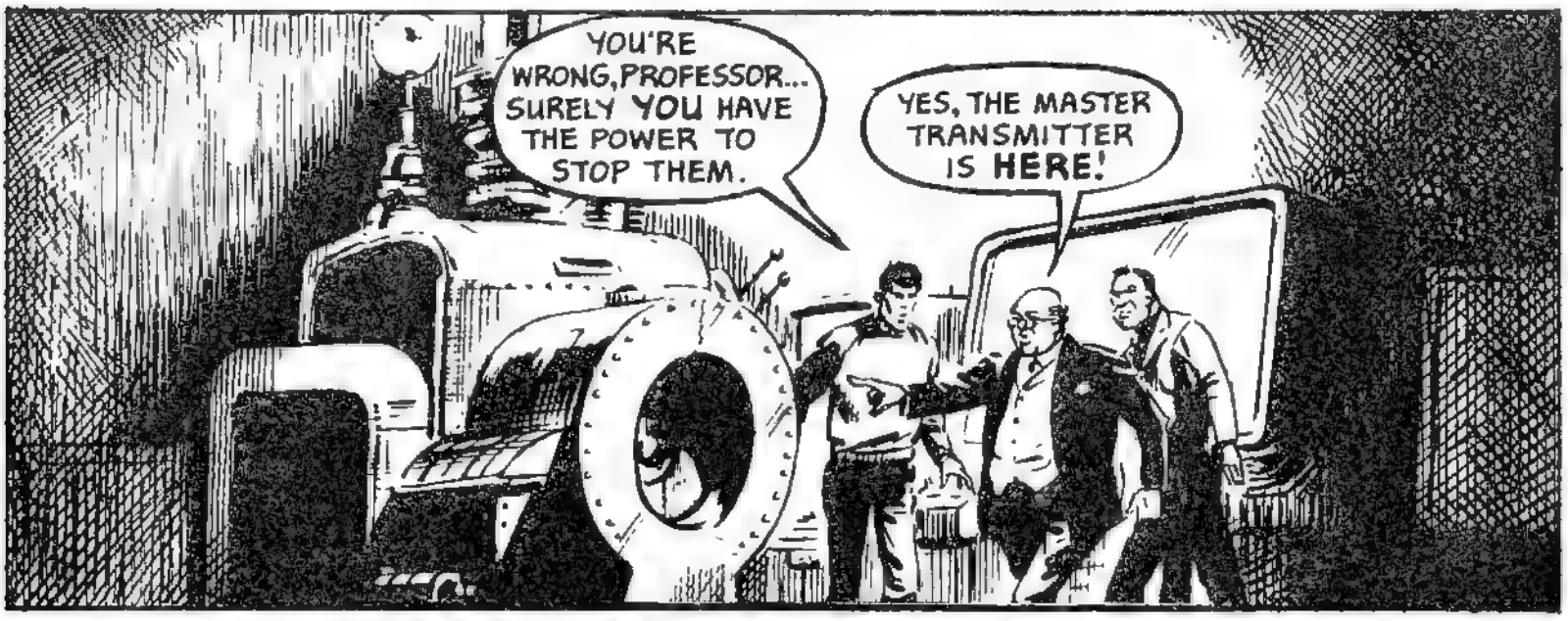
THEY WERE IN A TUNNEL AT THE END OF WHICH KNOCKER FORCED OPEN A DOOR...
GREAT STARS ALIVE... I WAS RIGHT! IT'S THE "POWER-HOUSE" BEHIND THE FANTASTIC MAILED MEN!

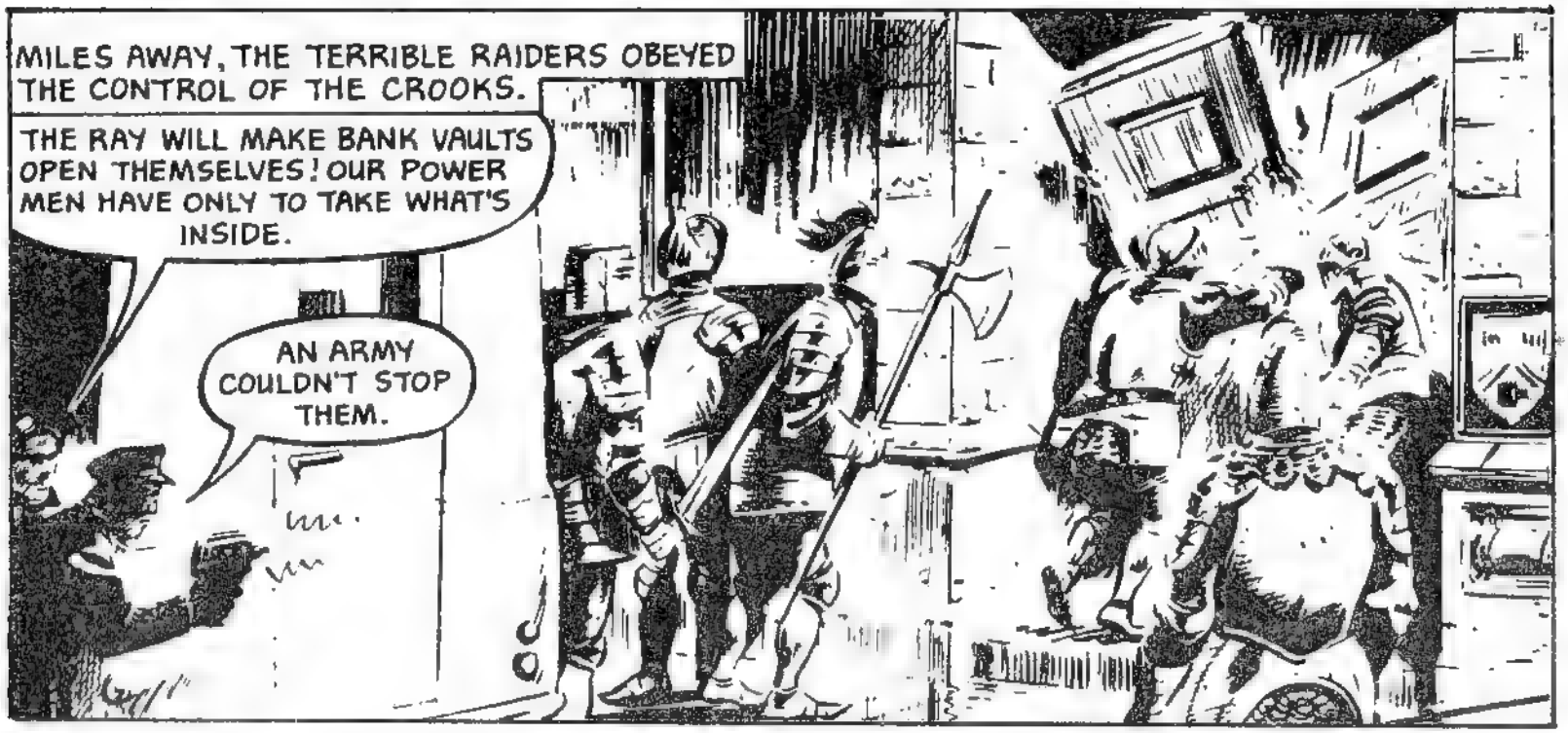
IT'S THE POWER-HOUSE BEHIND THE SINISTER MAILED MEN!
AND THAT MUST BE THE KIDNAPPED PROFESSOR PETRIE!

KNOCKER FREED THE PROFESSOR...
THEY FORCED ME TO USE MY INVENTION... THE ZETA RAY. IT GIVES DYNAMIC POWER TO ANYTHING ON WHICH IT IS FOCUSED.
SO THAT'S HOW EMPTY SUITS OF MAIL COME TO LIFE!

THE RAY CAN CONTROL ALL MATTER! BROKEN WINDOWS CAN MEND THEMSELVES... WALLS BE DEMOLISHED AND REBUILT. THE TELEVIEWER SCREENS SHOW WHAT IS HAPPENING...


IT LOOKS LIKE A BANK RAID!
CENTRAL BANK
ONE OF SEVERAL TO TAKE PLACE TONIGHT. NO POWER ON EARTH CAN HALT THE MAILED SUITS CONTROLLED BY THE RAY.

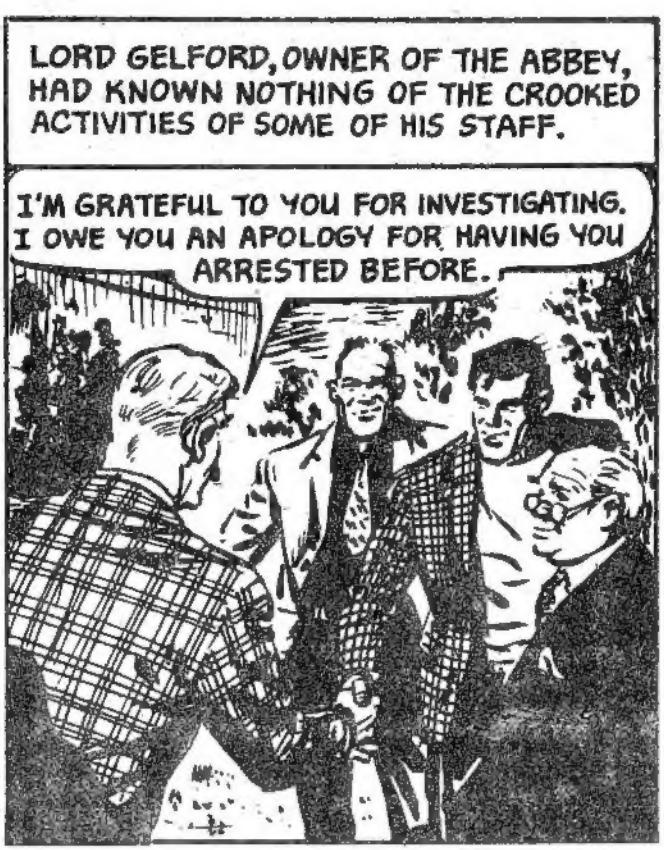

YOU'RE WRONG, PROFESSOR... SURELY YOU HAVE THE POWER TO STOP THEM.
YES, THE MASTER TRANSMITTER IS HERE!


MILES AWAY, THE TERRIBLE RAIDERS OBEYED THE CONTROL OF THE CROOKS.
THE RAY WILL MAKE BANK VAULTS OPEN THEMSELVES! OUR POWER MEN HAVE ONLY TO TAKE WHAT'S INSIDE.
AN ARMY COULDN'T STOP THEM.

BUT JUST THEN...
CENTRAL BANK
WATCH CLOSELY, MY FRIENDS! THE KIDNAPPERS WILL HAVE A SURPRISE.
THE MAILED RAIDERS SUDDENLY TURNED...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THEM?
THEY WON'T OBEY OUR TRANSMITTERS. THEY'RE COMING TOWARDS US!
CLOSE IN, MEN!
AAAAGH!
THE ARMOURED MEN SEEM TO BE ON OUR SIDE!

AND WHEN THE PROFESSOR SWITCHED OFF THE POWER...
THE SUITS OF MAIL HAVE COLLAPSED...
IT...IT'S EMPTY ARMOUR!

A BRILLIANT BUT DANGEROUS INVENTION, PROFESSOR!
ITS CONSTRUCTION WAS A LUCKY FLUKE. IF THIS TRANSMITTER GETS RUINED, NO-ONE CAN POSSIBLY REPLACE IT.


LORD GELFORD, OWNER OF THE ABBEY, HAD KNOWN NOTHING OF THE CROOKED ACTIVITIES OF SOME OF HIS STAFF.
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU FOR INVESTIGATING. I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY FOR HAVING YOU ARRESTED BEFORE.

NOW TO WRITE UP OUR MAGAZINE ACCOUNT OF THE EERIE HAUNTING OF GELFORD ABBEY. WE'VE GOT ENOUGH MATERIAL FOR A COUPLE OF BOOKS.
CHIEF, WE'LL MAKE ENOUGH HONEST LOLLY TO RETIRE.

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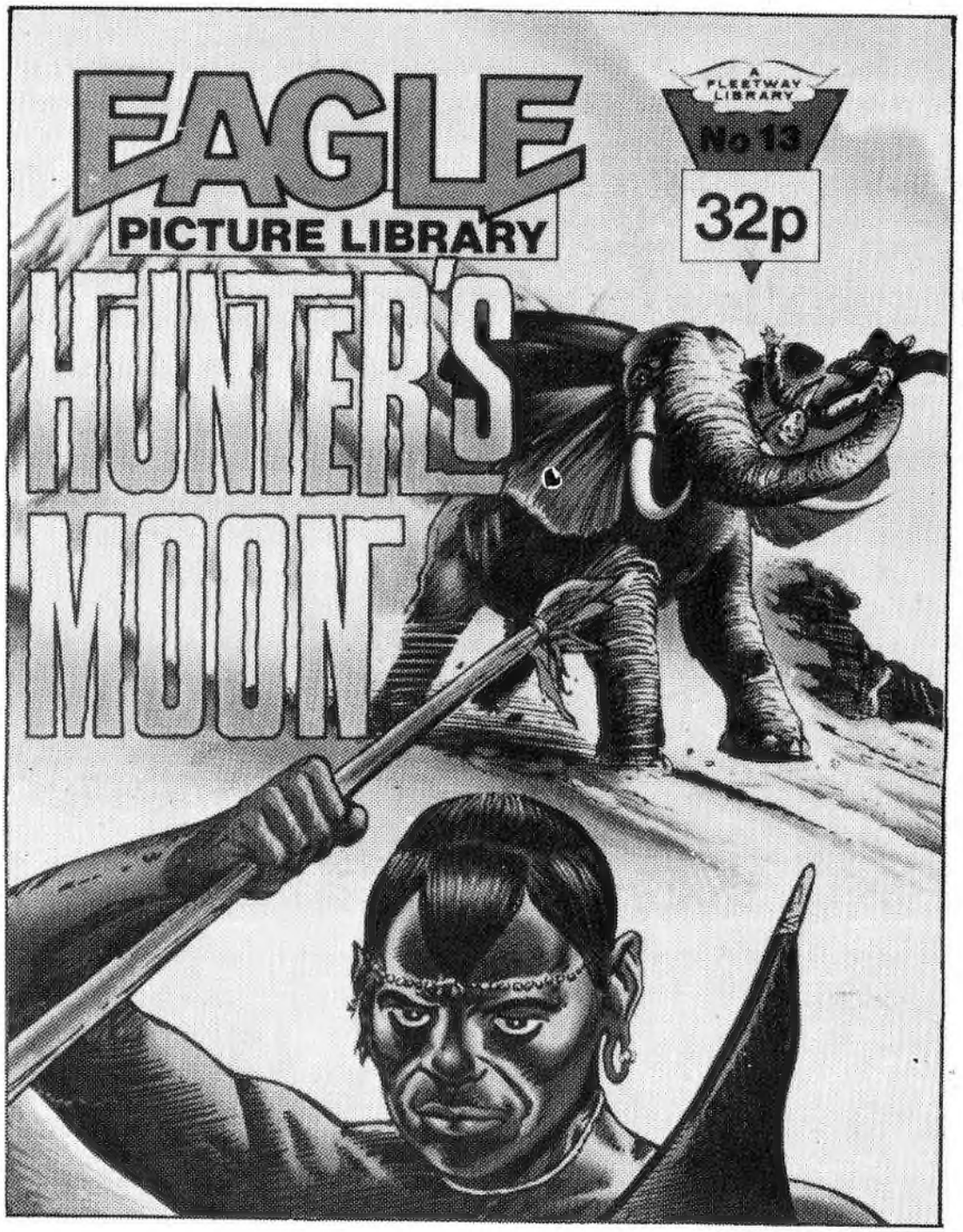

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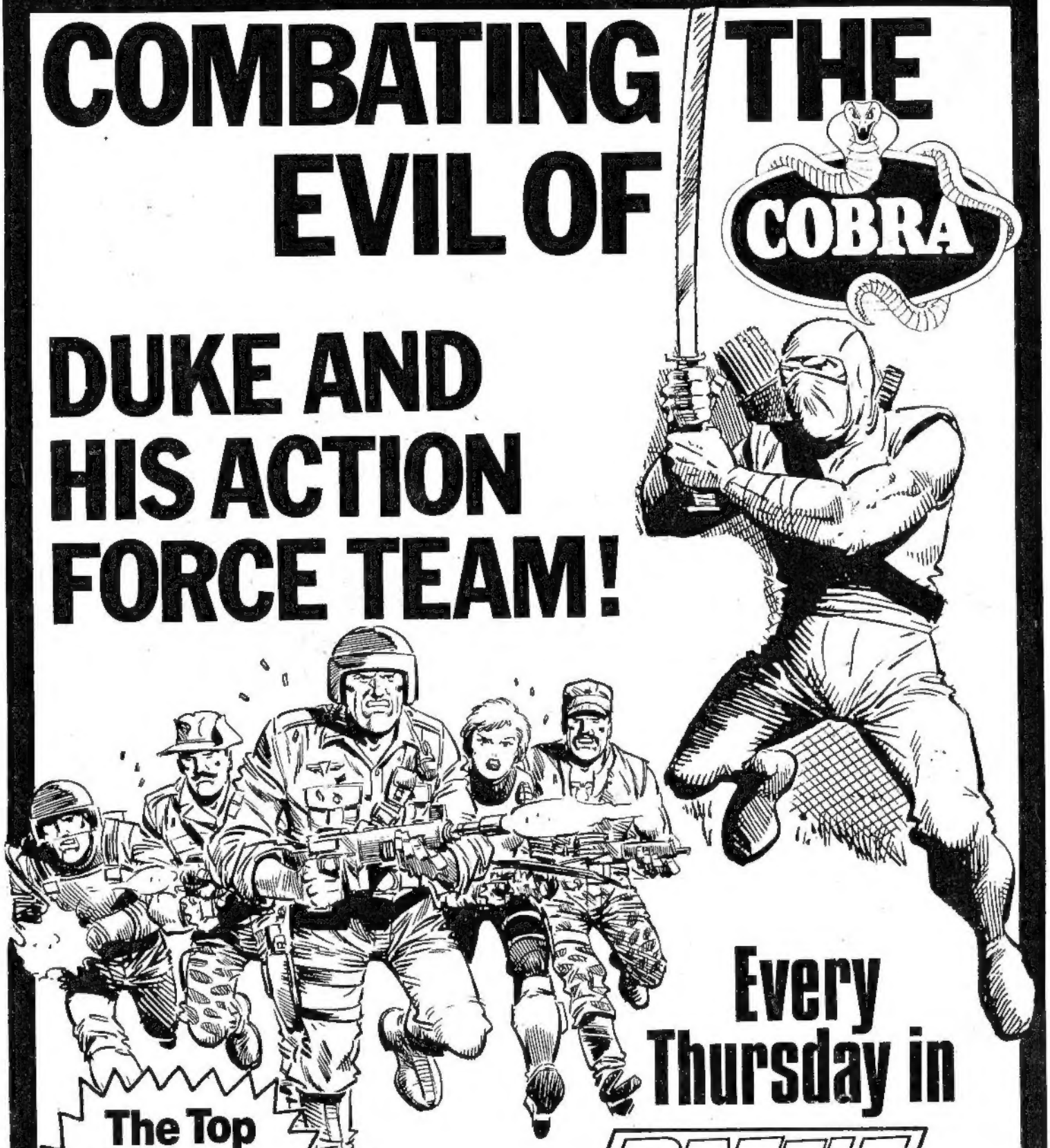
COMBATING THE EVIL OF COBRA

DUKE AND HIS ACTION FORCE TEAM!



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BATTLE ACTION FORCE

The Top Comic for Tough Stories!

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